

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS™

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Stan Lee Presents:

HAVOK "PHARAOH'S
LEGACY" 1

WRITER — Howard Mackle
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COLORIST — Andy Yanchus

BLACK PANTHER "PANTHER'S
QUEST" 9

WRITER — Don McGregor
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INKER — Tom Palmer
LETTERER — Joe Rosen
COLORIST — Mike Rockwitz

COLDBLOOD "RISE AND
SHINE" 17

WRITER — Doug Moench
PENCILER — Paul Gulacy
INKER — Paul Gulacy
LETTERER — Tim Harkins
COLORIST — Glynis Oliver

LEIR "LORD OF
LIGHTNING" 25

WRITER — Sue Flaxman
PENCILER — Tom Morgan
INKER — Tom Morgan
LETTERER — Jack Morelli
COLORIST — Steve Buccellato

"A HEART DEFEATED" — PART 7 OF 8

Havok penetrates the inner sanctum of The Cult of the Living Pharaoh. There he confronts an army of Trackers and engages in a death duel for the life of Leila O'Toole. Defeating all the Trackers, an exhausted Havok is faced with their new queen—Plasma.

"SO MANY NAMELESS ENEMIES" — PART 18 OF 25

If you missed last issue, you missed The Black Panther finally finding Patrick Slade again, a shadowy night meeting in Slade's curio shop which is interrupted by Elmer "Sex 'N' Violence" Gore and his mercenaries. You also missed Minister of Security Doeke Riebeeck and Sergeant Van der Merwe and South African security forces hot on the trail of the Panther. Bet you wished you hadn't missed that last chapter.

"RISE AND SHINE" — PART 5 OF 10

Escaping the walled mock-up of a nuke-devastated "New York City" located in the Nevada desert, Coldblood-7 is pursued by robotic assassins to Las Vegas—while, back in the walled fortress, Mako discovers Gina Dyson's treachery in freeing Coldblood's body and restoring memory to his computer if not to his mind...

"THE TEMPER OF A GOD..."

Behind the mists at the edge of the world lies Avalon, home of the Celtic gods. Their legendary champion is Leir, Lord of Lightning and God of the Spear. What happens when a god loses his temper? Even another god may not be able to stop him...

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THROUGH COMICS PRESENTS

THE X-MEN'S HAVOK

AND WOLVERINE!





THE OUTSKIRTS OF
CAIRO, EGYPT...

YOU SURE THIS
IS THE RIGHT
PLACE, HAVOK?

THIS IS IT,
WOLVERINE.

THIS IS WHERE
THEY'RE HOLDING
LEILA.

WELL, WHAT'RE
YOU WAITIN' FOR,
KIDDO--?

OPEN
THE DOOR!

PHARAOH'S
LEGACY

PART
VII

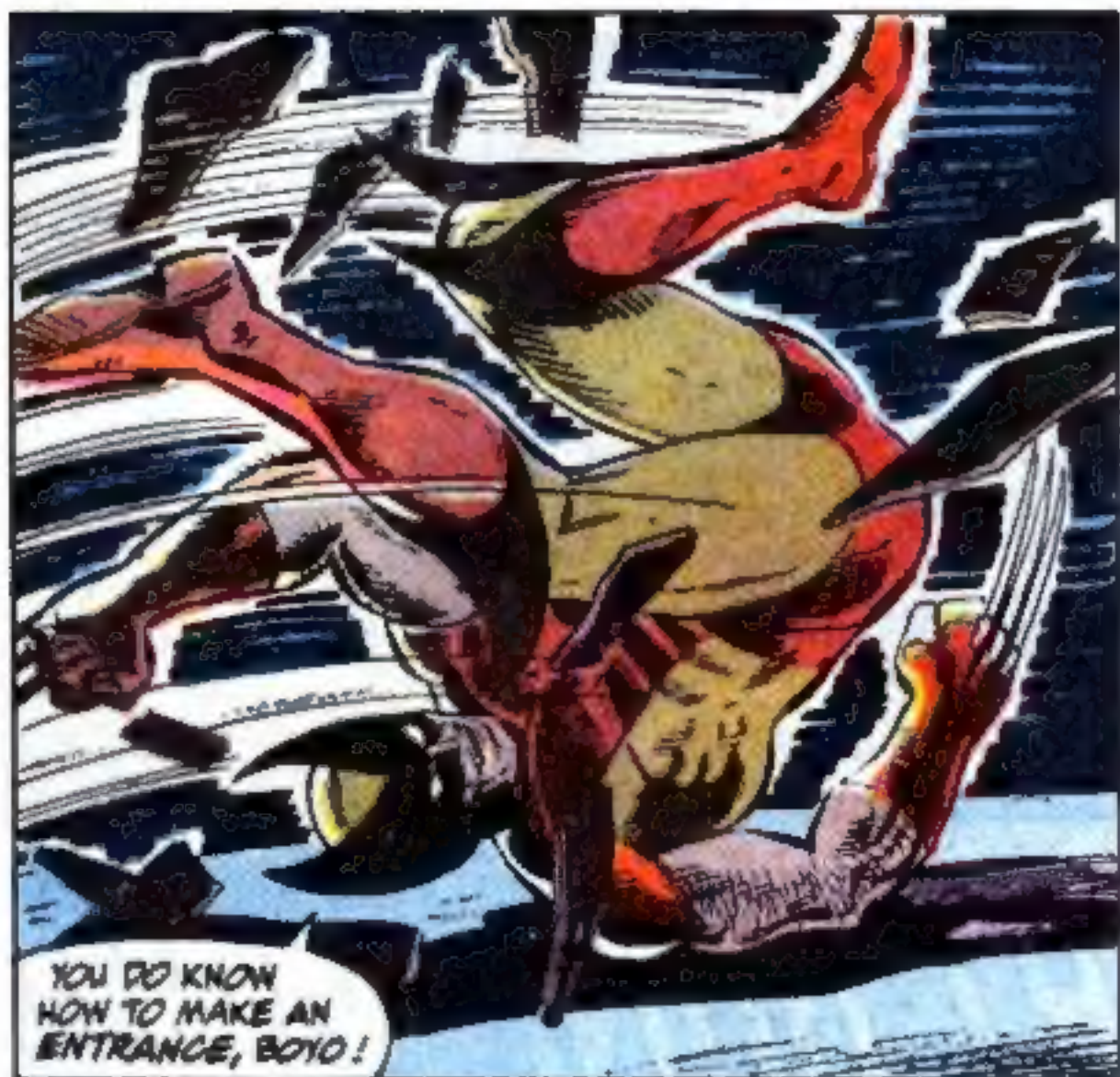
A HEART GONE MAD!

STARRING:

HAVOK



FWAMM









ALL I WANT TO DO IS FIND LEILA--

--THE ONE WOMAN IN MY LIFE WHO'S NORMAL.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT OR WANT ME FOR MY MUTANT ABILITIES.

SHE'S JUST A FRIEND.



AND I AM GOING TO HELP HER--

--BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE MY BEST FRIEND IN THE PROCESS!



WOLVERINE, WHERE ARE YOU?!



CALM DOWN, KIDDO, I'M RIGHT HERE.

SOMETIMES YOU'RE SO EXCITABLE!



NOW GET DOWN HERE!



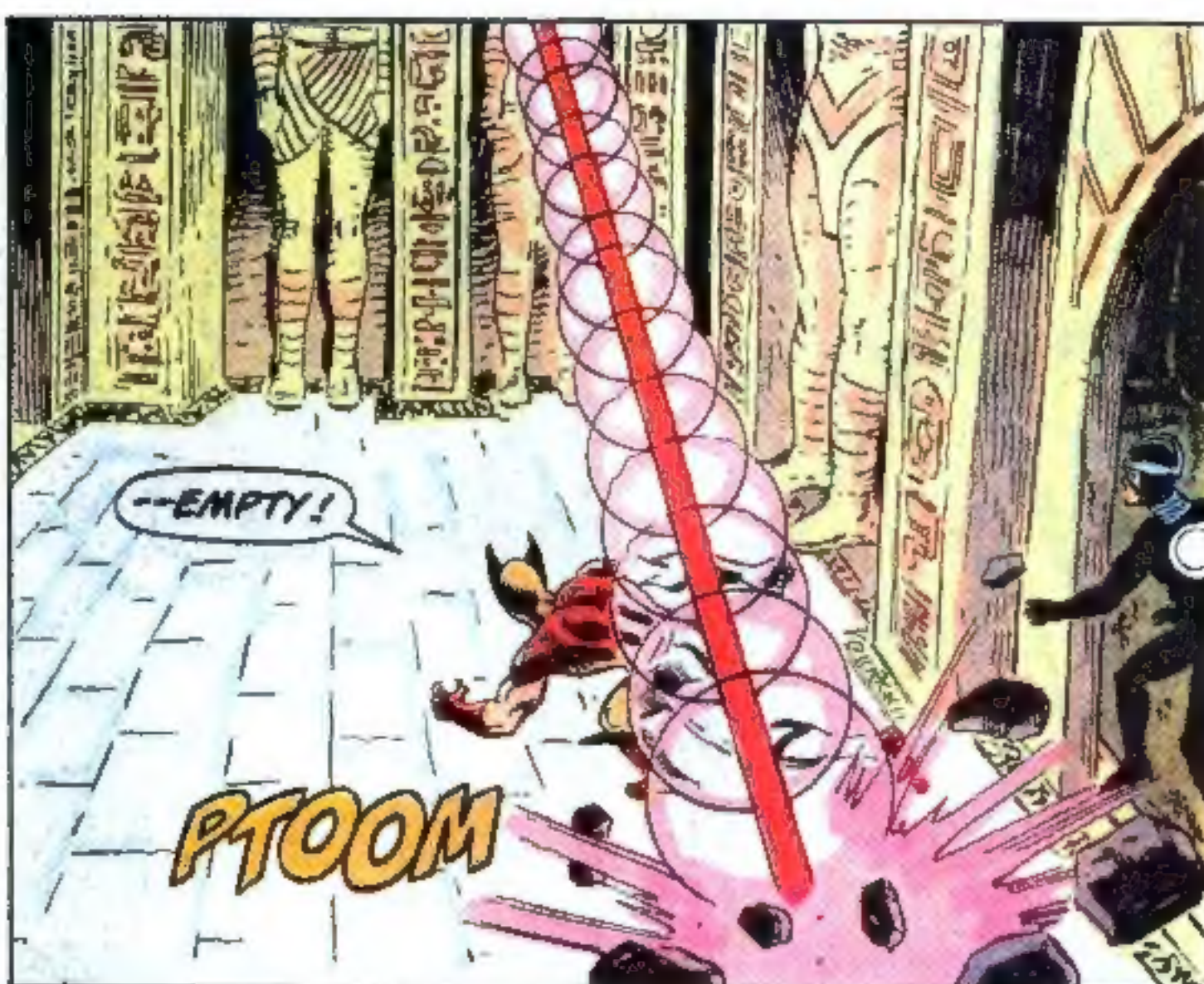
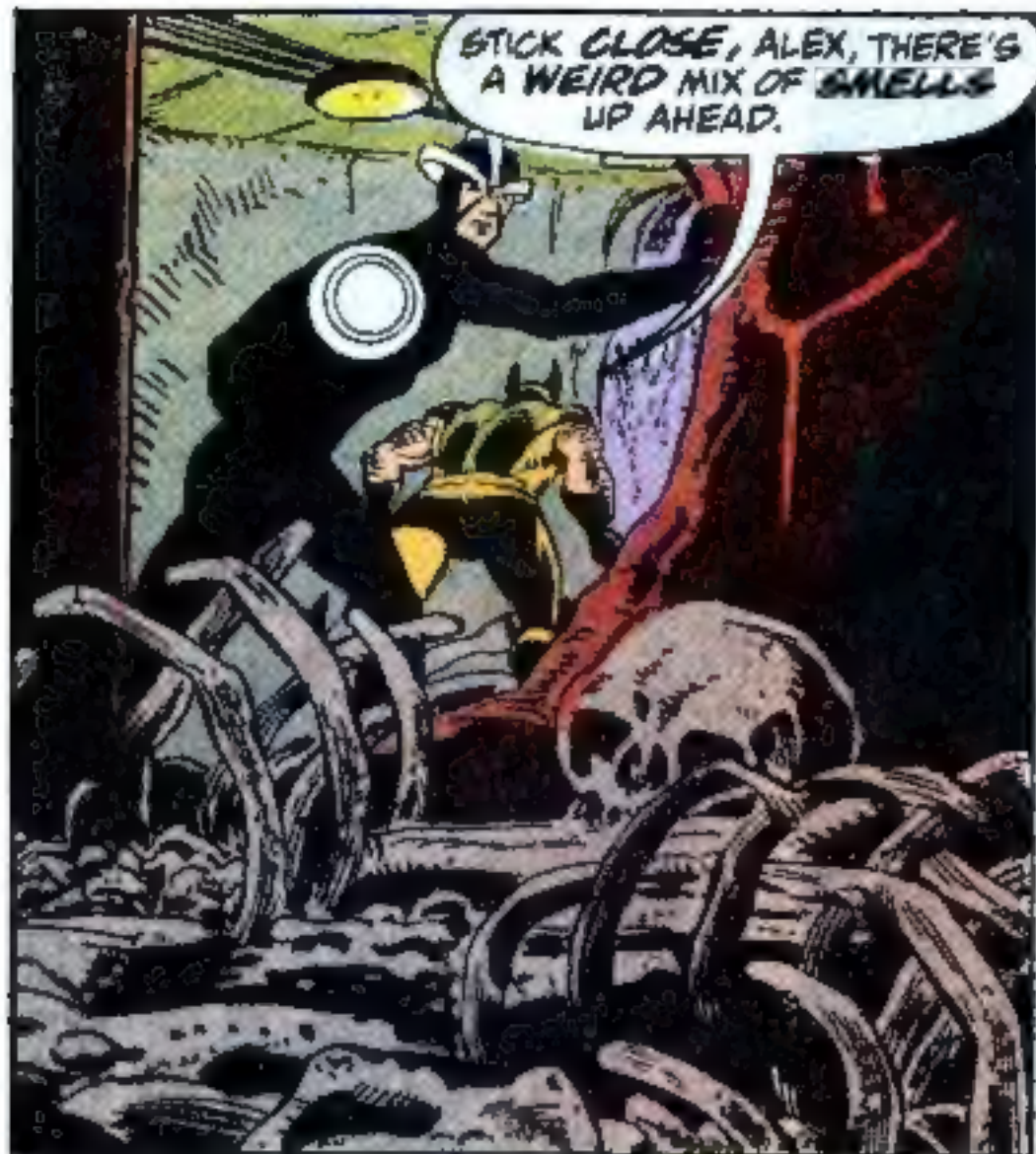
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO FIND THE GIRL--

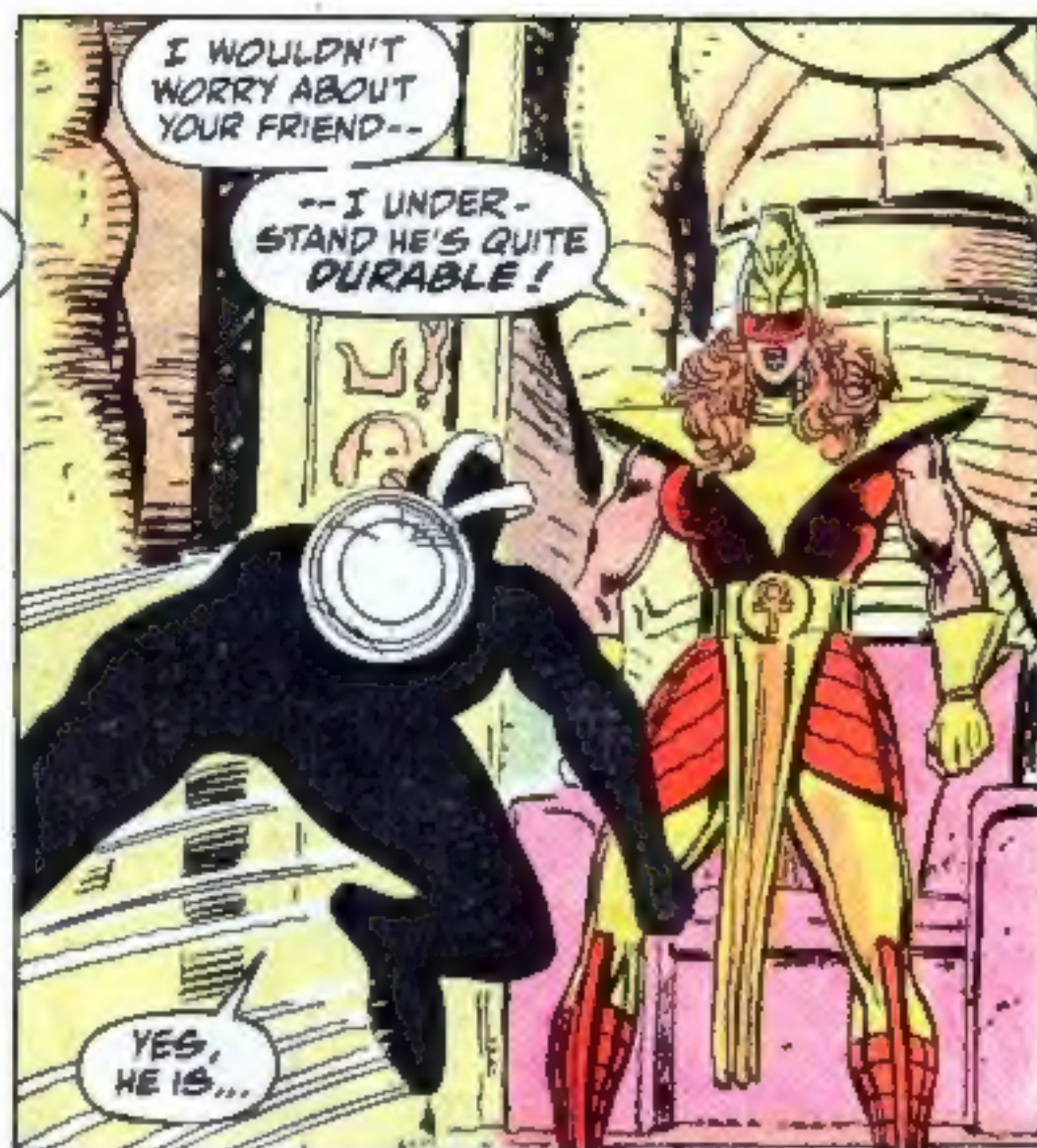


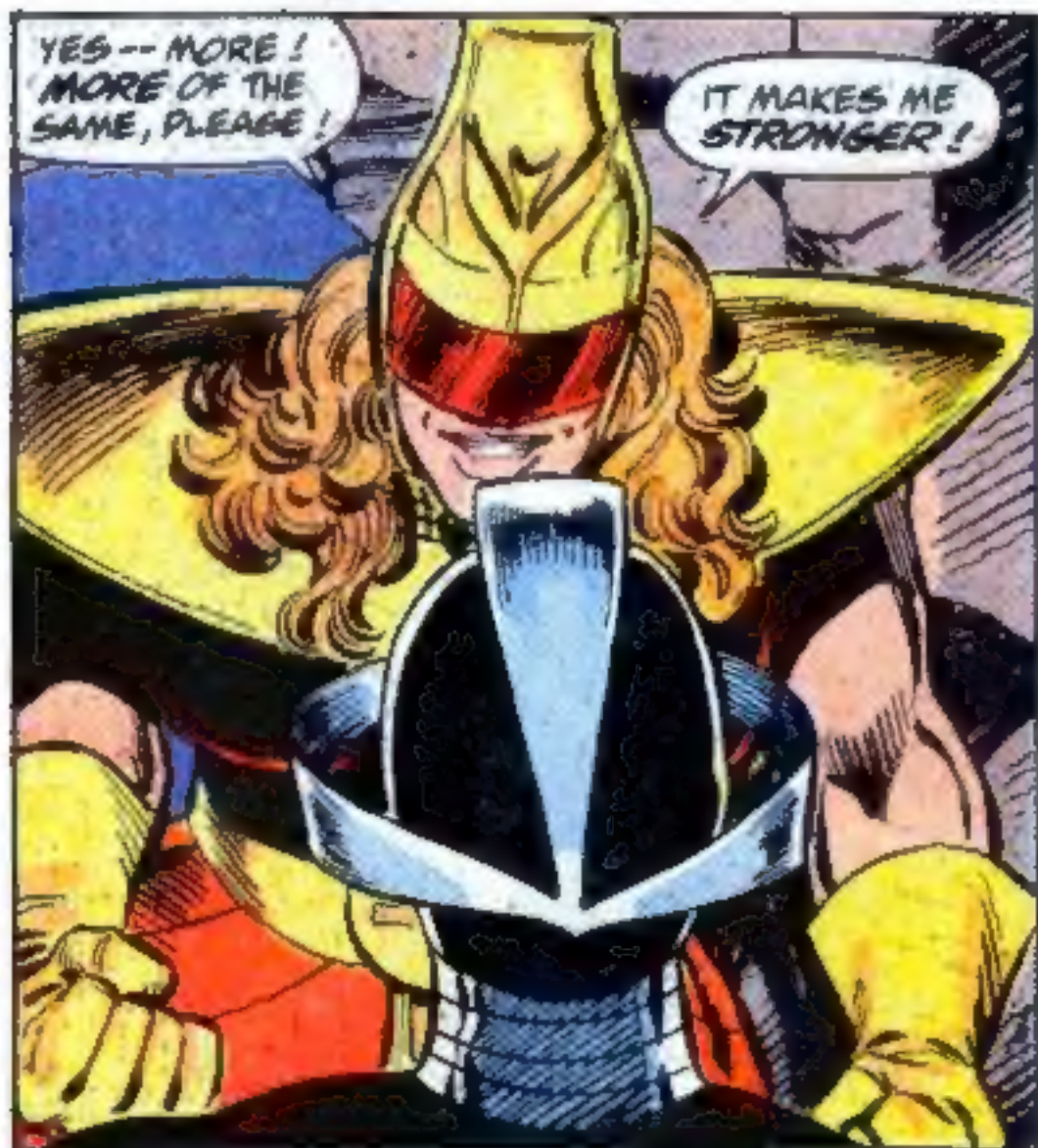
--WELL, I THINK I FOUND A WAY TO THE UNDERGROUND COMPLEX THAT YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT.



NOBODY'S FOLLOWING...







PANTHER QUEST

SO MANY NAMELESS ENEMIES

PART XVIII
STARRING *THE BLACK PANTHER*

"One would obviously want peace in your country and it's not nice to know that people die because others hate them or because they want to have Communism in our country and that sort of thing. I suppose it's something that one has to live with."

—ROXANNE BOTHA

daughter of Prime Minister Botha

from the CBS news documentary, *Children of Apartheid*

COME ON DOWNNN, MEN!
JOIN THE PARTY.

THE
PUSSYCAT...
OUR GUEST
OF HONOR...
HE'S ALL
CHOKED
UP!

THE MEN DROP
FROM THE CEILING
WITH THE FUNCTION-
AL TECHNIQUE
GIVEN AMERICAN
PARATROOPERS.

FROM THEIR FORM, THEY
HAVE APPARENTLY
FOREGONE THE JUMP-
SCHOOL EXERCISES
FOR A LONG TIME

TCHALLA RECOGNIZES THE
FACES OF BOTH MEN BUT
DOES NOT KNOW THEIR
NAMES.



SO MANY STRANGERS AFFECTING HIS LIFE LATELY... MANY OF THEM COMPLICATING OR COERCIVELY OBSTRUCTING HIS QUEST TO FIND HIS MOTHER.

A QUEST A PART OF HIM WISHES HE HAD NEVER BEGUN. IT HAS COST SO MUCH.

YET IF OTHERS, SUCH AS THESE INTRUDERS, ARE COMPELLED TO TRY TO STOP HIM FROM LEARNING WHAT HAPPENED TO HER--



--THEN IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE SHE IS STILL ALIVE--

NAMELESS ENEMIES.

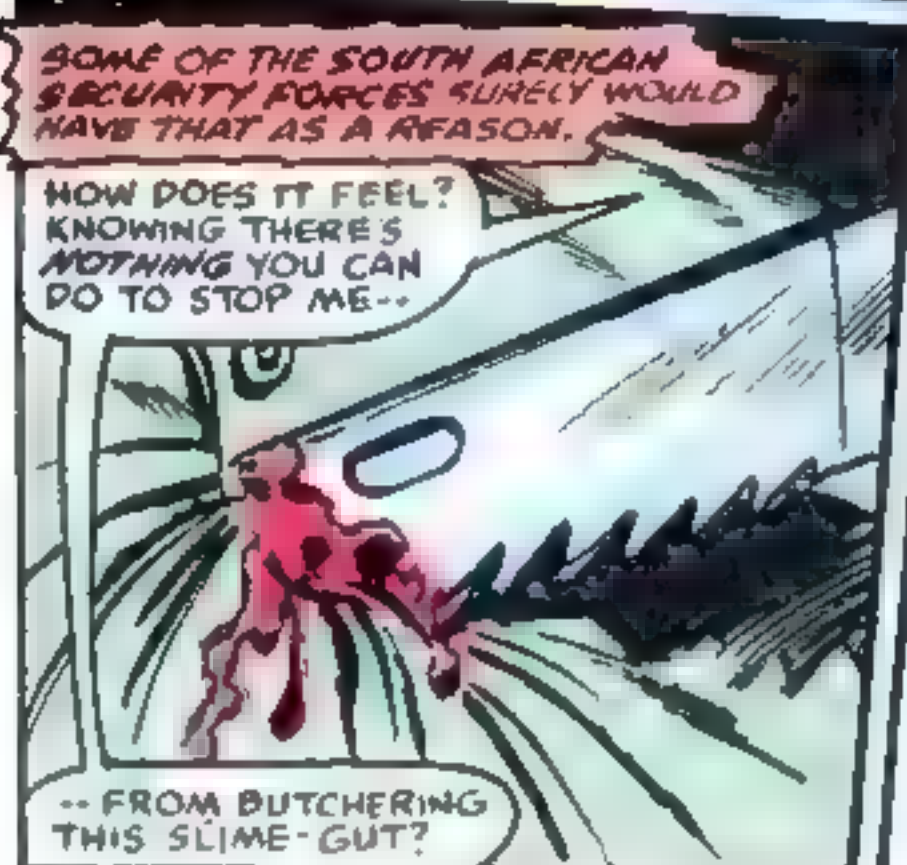
THESE MEN ARE HUMAN ENIGMAS WORKING COMBATIVELY AGAINST HIM.

WHY?

--AND THE QUEST IS VALID!

GO AHEAD, MAKE A TRY, PUSSYCAT. YOU'RE QUICK, BUT NOT THAT QUICK.

FOR POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES? SOME, PERHAPS.



SOME OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY FORCES SURELY WOULD HAVE THAT AS A REASON.

HOW DOES IT FEEL? KNOWING THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME--

--FROM BUTCHERING THIS SLIME-GUT?

FOR MONEY?

THIS IS AT LEAST THE SURFACE MOTIVATION THAT MERCENARIES LIKE THESE WOULD SHRUG AND AGREE WITH.

EXCEPT FOR GORE MONETARY RECOMPENSE WAS MERELY AN APPRECIATION OF HIS SKILL FOR KILLING.

SLADE'S

THE ONLY THING

KEEPING ME FROM YOU.

GORE MIGHT EVEN AGREE THAT HE WAS A SOCIOPATH FOR WHOM KILLING WAS NOT AN ABNORMAL OBJECTIVE.

NO! NO!

THAT TERRIFIES ME

ESPECIALLY SINCE THE LAST TIME WE MET YOU GAVE ME SUCH A RUN FOR MY MONEY.

Please help me, please. I... I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHING... BAD.

SHUT UP, SLADE. YOU'RE DEAD NO MATTER HOW THIS GOES. ONCE HE'S GONE, YOU'RE NEXT, PUSSYCAT!

YOU KNEW MY FATHER?

YOU'LL BE DEAD, JUST LIKE YOUR OLD MAN, T'CHAKA.

NEVER MET HIM.

HEARD HE WAS A NOBODY... COULDN'T EVEN HOLD ONTO HIS WOMAN.

HEARD HE WENT UP AGAINST SOMEONE TOUGHER THAN HIM, AND GOT HIMSELF WASTED! NOT EVEN MAGGOT FOOD NOW

KIND OF LIKE WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOU.

GUESS IT'S TIME TO GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD.

DO THIS QUICK AND FAST.

THE GREAT CAT KNOWS EXACTLY
WHERE HIS LEGS WILL CONNECT--

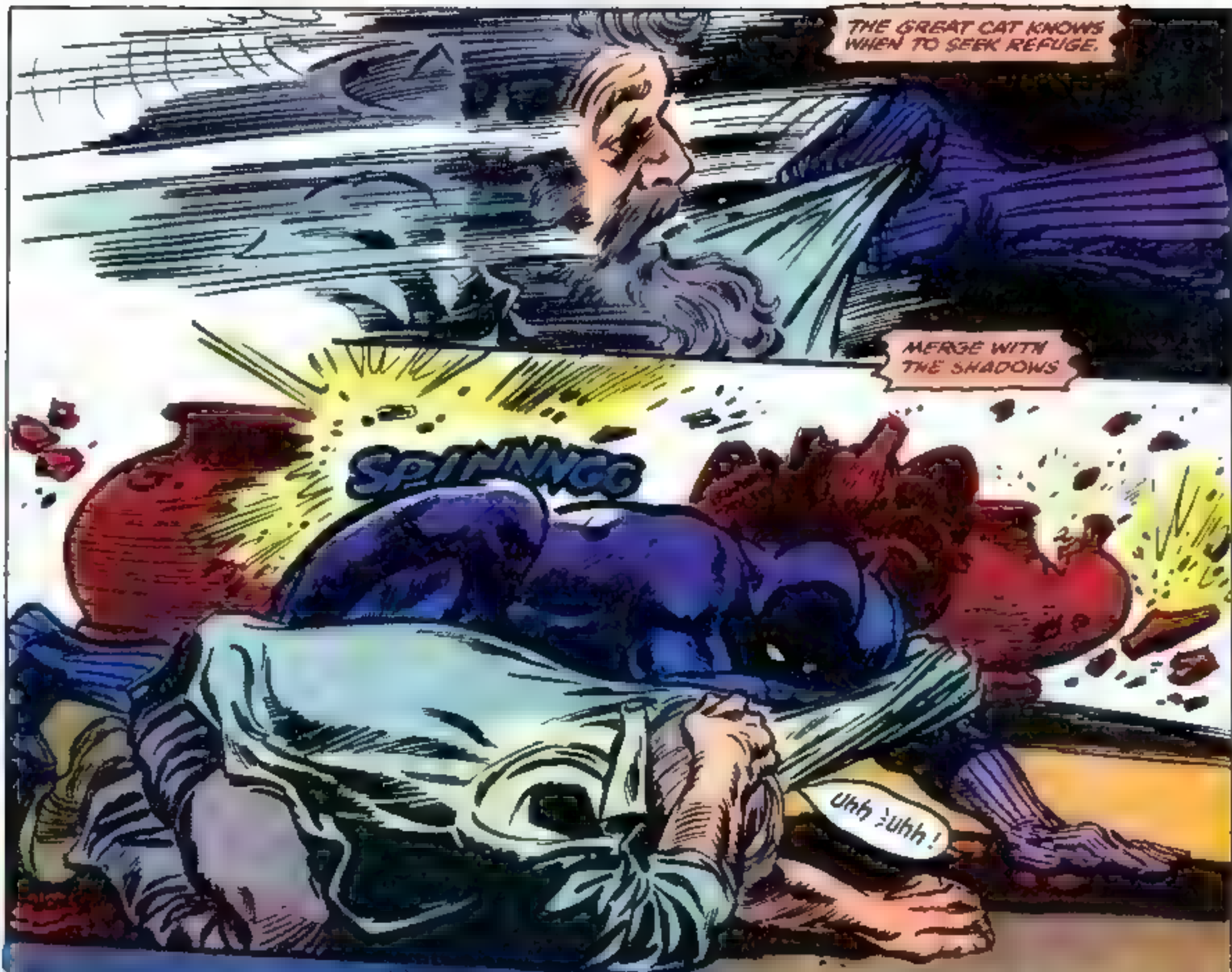
--KNOWS
WHERE THE
SHARPENED
BLADE IS
EVEN WHEN
IT IS OUT OF
VIEW.

TWIST
AND SNAP!

NO. GORE HAS THE PRESENCE
OF MIND NOT TO RESIST THE
PRESSURE, TO FOLLOW IT.

WON'T BE
ENOUGH TO
BREAK THE
ARM.

TOO MANY
NAMELESS
ENEMIES
SHOOTING
A SECOND
LATE



THE GREAT CAT KNOWS WHEN TO SEEK REFUGE.

MERGE WITH THE SHADOWS

SPINNNNG

Uhh...uhh!



MOVE AS QUIETLY AS IS POSSIBLE WITH A COMPANION WHO SOUNDS AS IF HE MIGHT LOSE EVERYTHING -

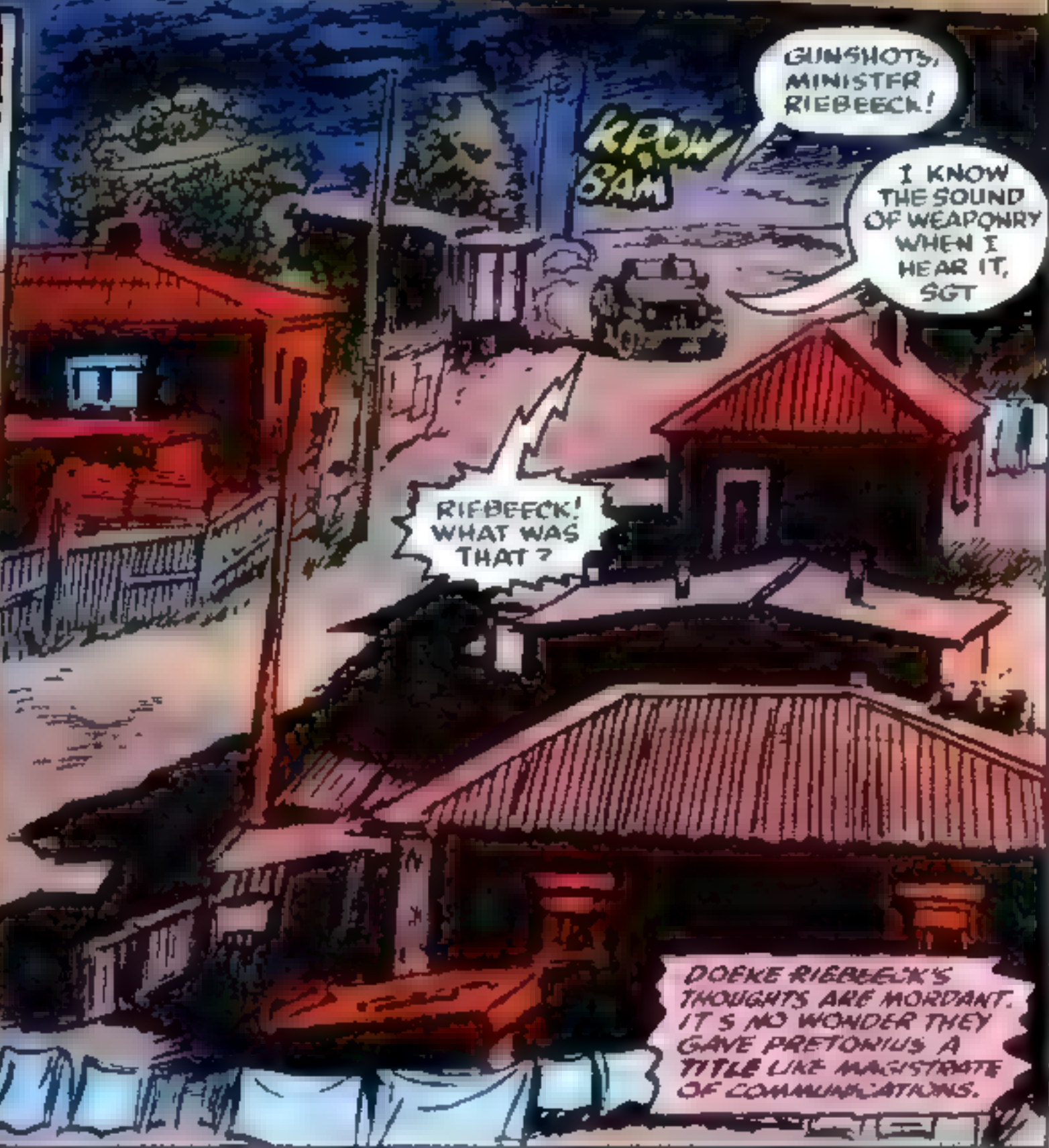
IN PHASE 2

BACK TO WHAT HE HAD FOR BREAKFAST

PINNNNG

Uhh! Arkhh!

STAY CLOSE UNTIL WE FIND A HIDING PLACE YOU KEEP THAT GAGGING NOISE DOWN, YOU MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE OF GETTING OUT OF THIS ALIVE.



GUNSHOTS, MINISTER RIFBEECK!

I KNOW THE SOUND OF WEAPONRY WHEN I HEAR IT, SGT

KPOW SAM

RIFBEECK! WHAT WAS THAT?

DOEKE RIFBEECK'S THOUGHTS ARE MORDANT. IT'S NO WONDER THEY GAVE PRETORIUS A TITLE LIKE MAGISTRATE OF COMMUNICATIONS.

THERE IS NO RESPITE FROM ANTON'S VOICE TONIGHT, ALWAYS WITH THE PROPER DIPLOMATIC CONCERN, DOES THE MAN NEVER LOSE HIS #8574#!! TEMPER?

RIEBECK IS ANGRY AT THE REASONABLE INQUIRIES FROM ANTON, ANGRIER THAT IT IS A REGULAR OCCURRENCE THAT HE AND SGT. VAN DER MERWE ARRIVE AT PLACES THEIR QUARRY HAS APPARENTLY TERRORIZED SHORTLY BEFORE THEIR ARRIVAL.

IT WOULD APPEAR OUR BELOVED MAGISTRATE DOESN'T KNOW A GUNSHOT WHEN HE HEARS ONE.

HE'S A VAST DISTANCE AWAY, SIR.

DON'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR HIM, SGT. I AND GET THIS VEHICLE WHERE THOSE SHOTS CAME FROM.

NO!

DOEKE, WHY AREN'T YOU REPORTING WHAT IS HAPPENING.

PRETORIUS STOP BREATHING DOWN MY NECK AND JABBERING IN MY ACHING EAR!

I'LL HANDLE THE SITUATION AS I SEE FIT... AND YOU CAN HEAR ABOUT IT ALL IN THE MORNING.

OUT! *CLIFF*

THE MAGISTRATE WON'T LIKE THAT.

I WON'T BE THE FIRST THING ABOUT ME HE DOESN'T LIKE. HE'D REALLY GO ROUND THE BEND IF HE HAD A CLUE ABOUT HOW I ENJOY MYSELF ON MY OWN TIME.

ZANTI CHIKANE HAS NO DOUBT THE STARTLING GUNSHOTS ARE DIRECTED AT T'CHALLA.

IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE HOW MANY GUNS GO OFF WHEREVER THIS MAN TRAVELS.

ANOTHER REASON IT WAS DANGEROUS TO BE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THIS MAN.

STILL, HE HAS TO WARN T'CHALLA. THE GUNFIRE IS ATTRACTING FURTHER UNWANTED COMPANY.

T'CHALLA! THERE'RE SOLDIERS COMING AND I THINK FROM MORE THAN ONE DIRECTION.

T'CHALLA? DO YOU HEAR ME?

YOU IN HERE?

THE PANTHER CAN HEAR ONE OF THE NAMELESS ENEMIES BREATHING SHALLOW. THE MAN REEKS OF GASOLINE. IT IS THE SPY, THEN!

THE MAN HAD TO HAVE ZANTI IN HIS SIGHTS; ZANTI WAS SPOTLIGHTED IN THE DOORWAY--

--A VOCAL TARGET.

GET DOWN, ZANTI!

NEVER SHOULD HAVE STARTED THIS, PATRICK SLADE ADMONISHES HIMSELF.

IT HAS BECOME A LITANY INTERRUPTING OTHER THOUGHTS THROUGHOUT THE PAST DAYS AND NIGHTS.

COURSE HE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING WAS STARTING THAT DAY HE ENTERED THE HOSPITAL TO SEE MOLALE.

HE WAS ONLY GOING TO SEE AN OLD FRIEND--

--WHO MADE CARVINGS FOR HIM THAT HE SOLD TO TOURIST SHOPS IN GOLD-RICH JOHANNESBURG.

HE HAD SEEN THE ZULU SERVANT LYING ON BLOOD-SOAKED WHITE.

VICTIM OF A BUS ACCIDENT HE LATER LEARNED.

SHE HAD ALARMED HIM WHEN SHE CLUTCHED HIS ARM, AS IF SHE WAS TRYING TO GRIP LIFE AND KEEP IT FROM ESCAPING.

SHE HAD BEEN JOURNEYING TO VISIT HER FAMILY IN THE EUPHEMISTICALLY TERMED HOMELANDS, SHE TOLD HIM--

--TEARS ON HER FACE--

--HER BLOODED HAND LEAVING ACCUSING STREAKS ON HIS ARM.

AT FIRST HE THOUGHT SHE WAS BARBLING INCOHERENTLY WORDS APPELLED BY THE FEAR OF APPROACHING DEATH.

BUT SHE WAS LONG-LEGGED

SOME PEOPLE LIVE WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE BUT CAN NOT DIE WITHOUT UNBURDENING WHAT THEY HAVE LIVED WITH.

SHE STARTLED HIM A SECOND TIME WHEN SHE MENTIONED THE KIDNAPED WOMAN

THE WOMAN WAS HELD CAPTIVE AT THE ESTATE WHERE SHE HAD THE MOTHER OF THE BLACK PANTHER. SHE HAD SAID HAVE YOU HEARD OF HIM?

YES HE A FEW OF THE MAN HE WAS QUITE WELL READ HE FOUND A LOT UP IN THE RESEARCH

HE HAD STILL HAD A NO MAN HE WOULD GET THE BLACK OF HIS CLOTHES AND NOW HE WOULD GET HER TO HE LEAVE HIM, WITH SHE UTTERED HER OWN PLAYER'S NAME --

-- A NAME SO RECOGNIZABLE HE WAS MORE THAN STARTLED, MORE LIKE SHOCKED. AND HE STARTED TO THINK WHAT IT ALL COULD MEAN.

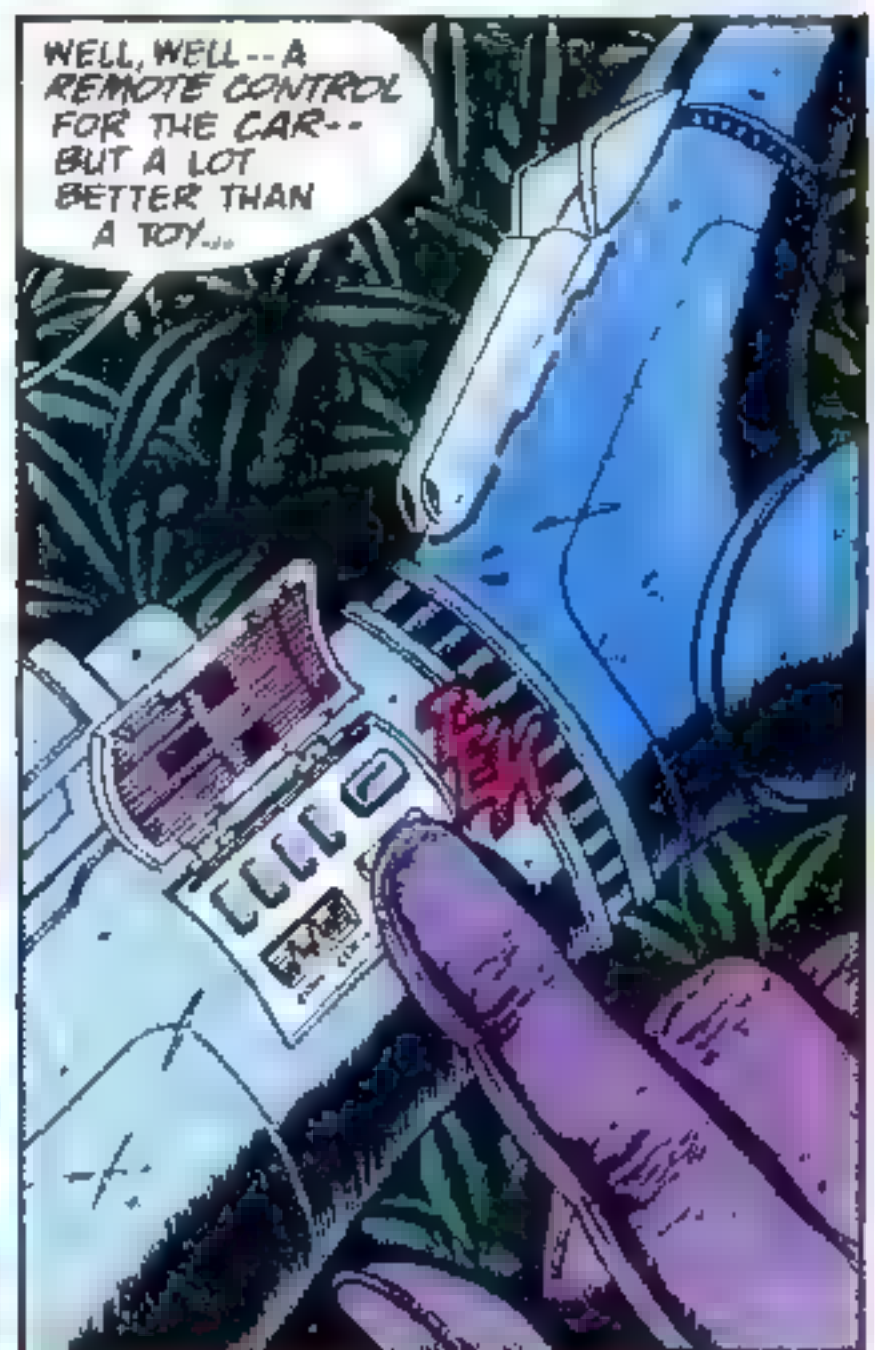
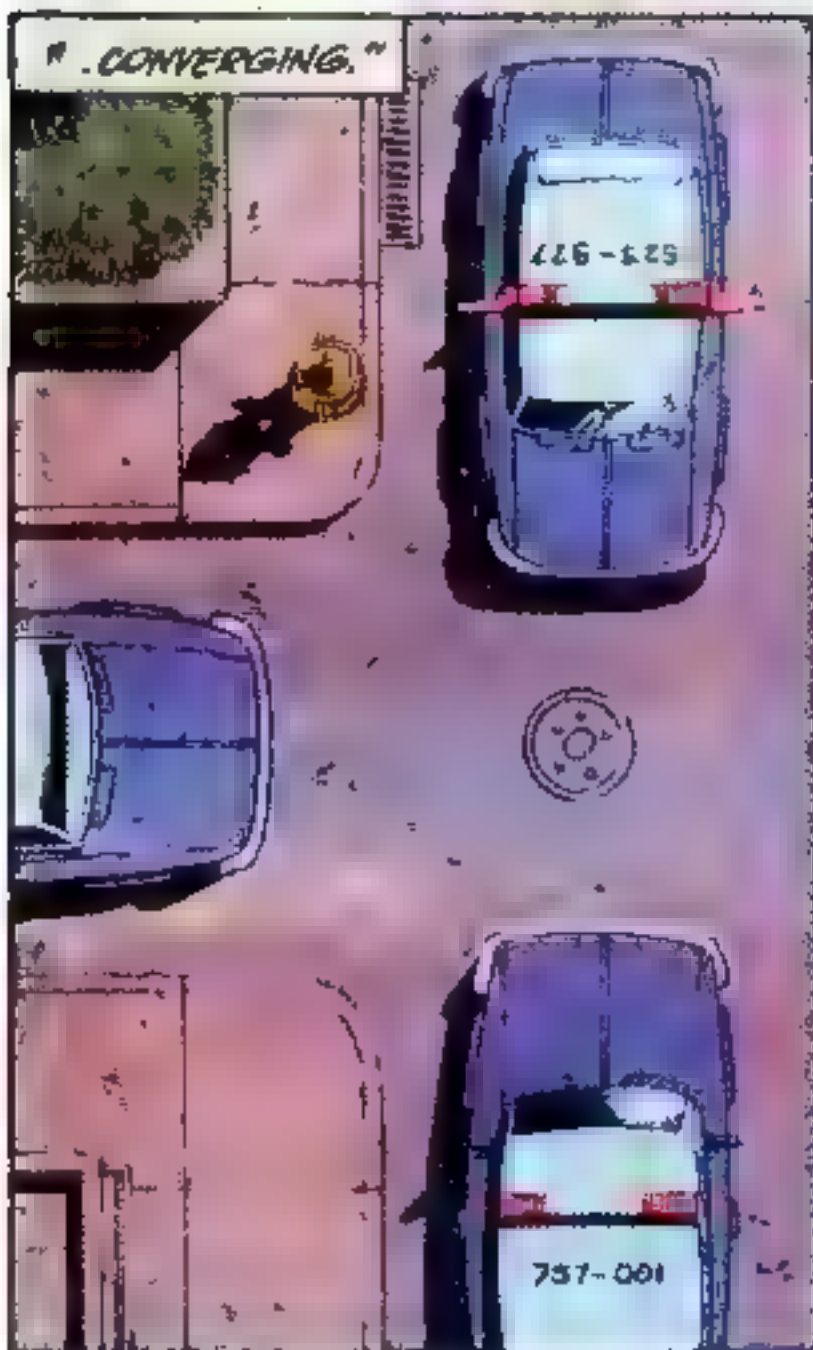
THE OLD WOMAN'S LAST WORDS WERE 'HER NAME IS RAMONA AND I... IT WAS MY JOB... TO MAKE THE BED AND DUST THE FURNITURE... IN THE BEAUTIFUL BEAUTIFUL PRISON.'

NEVER SHOULD HAVE STARTED

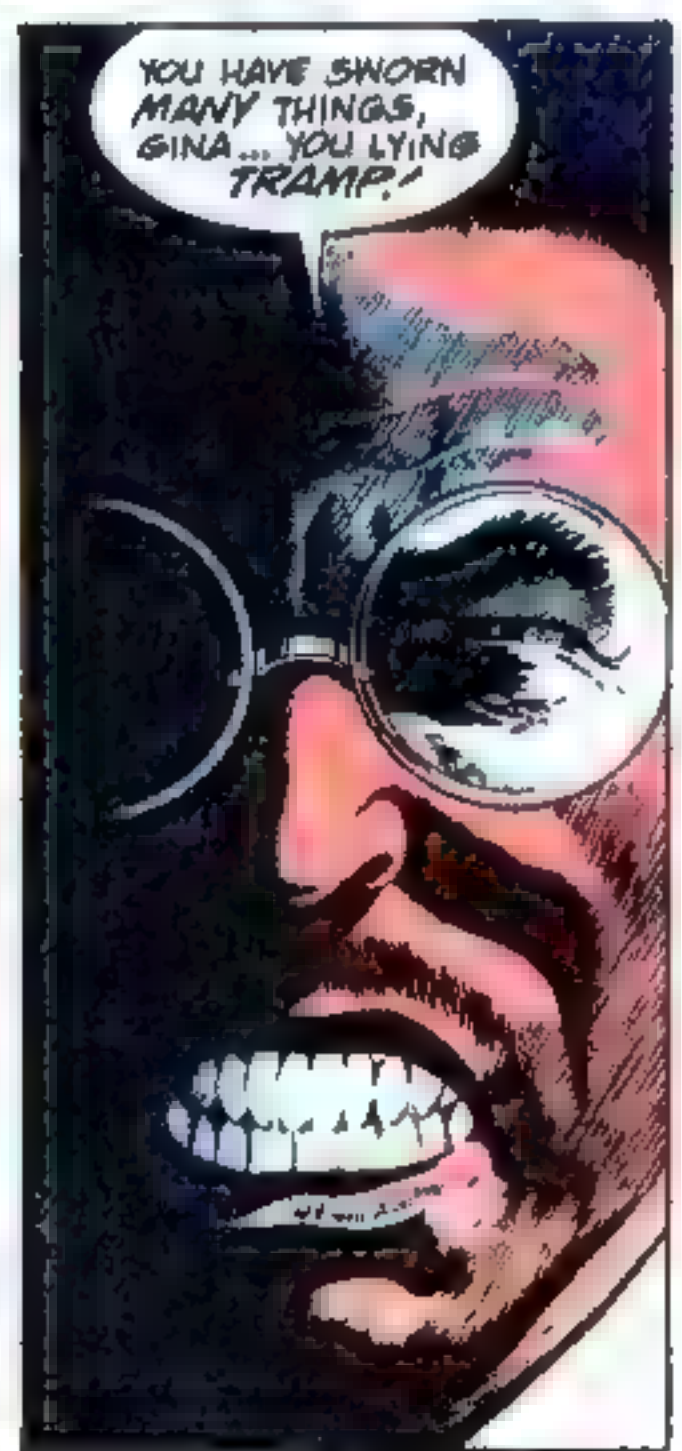
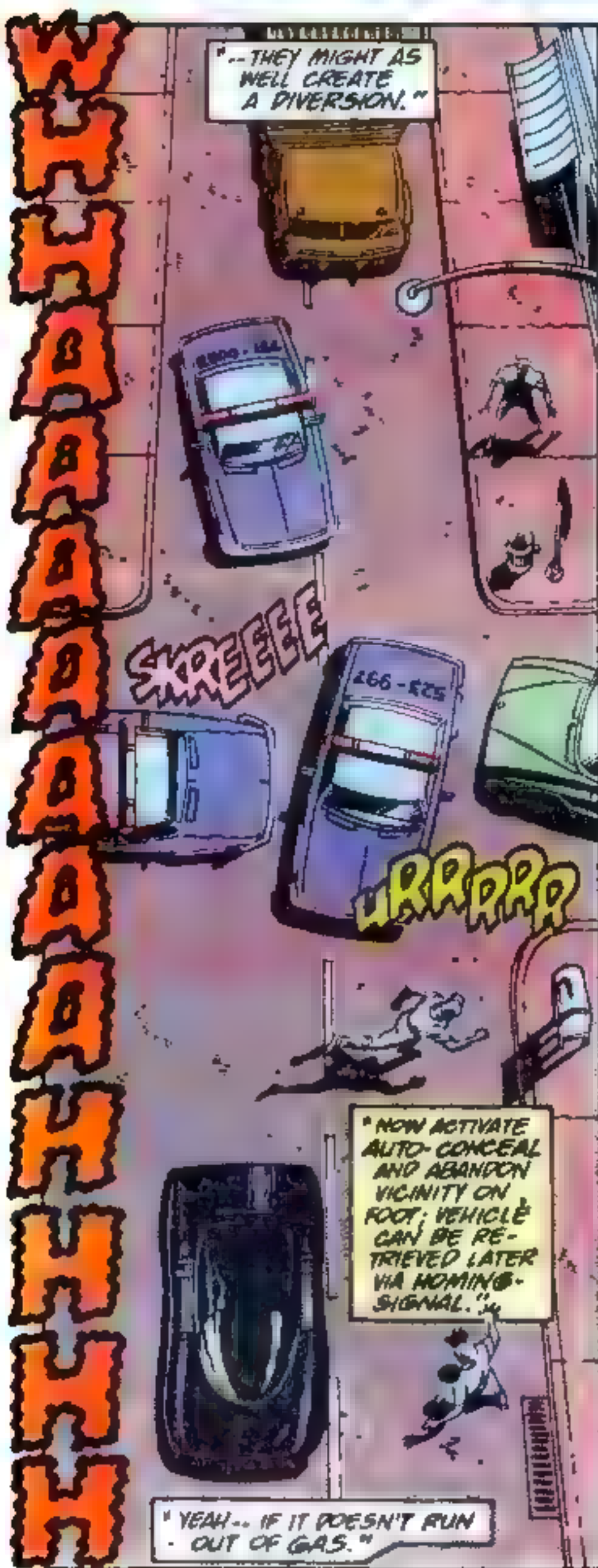
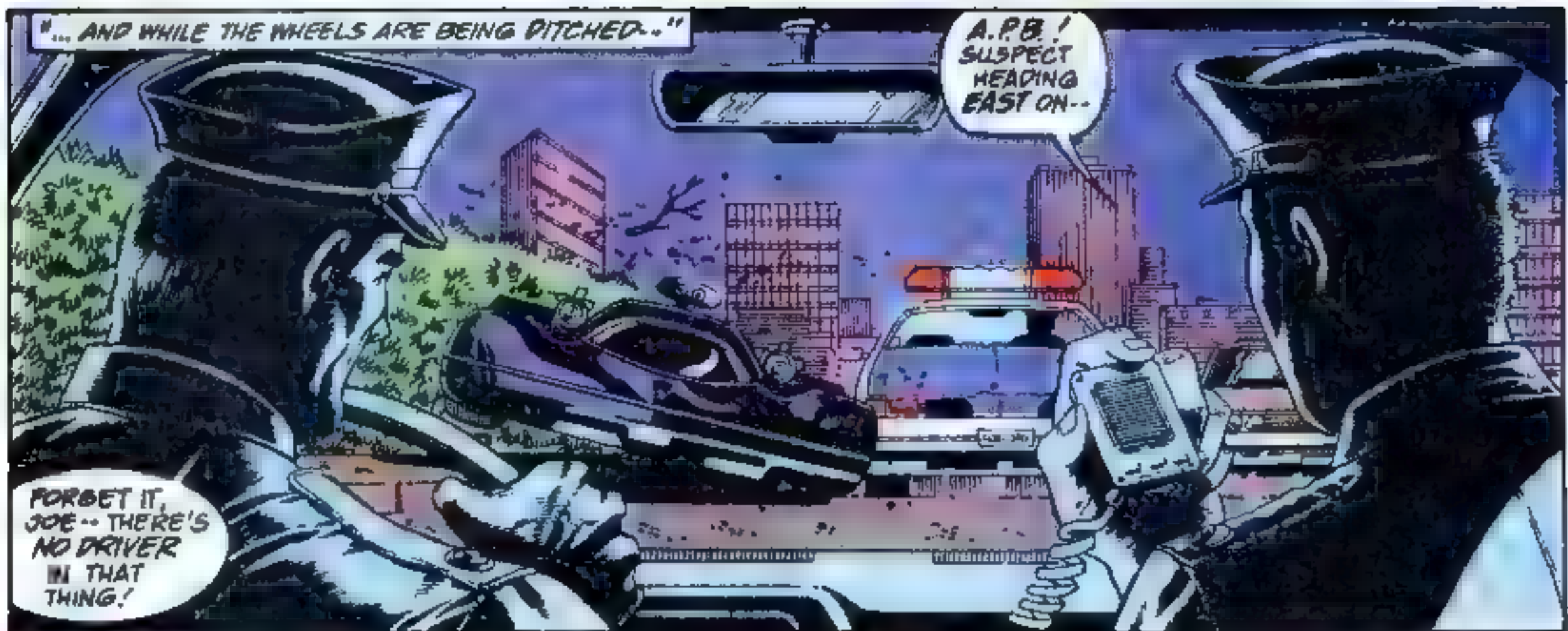
THIS!

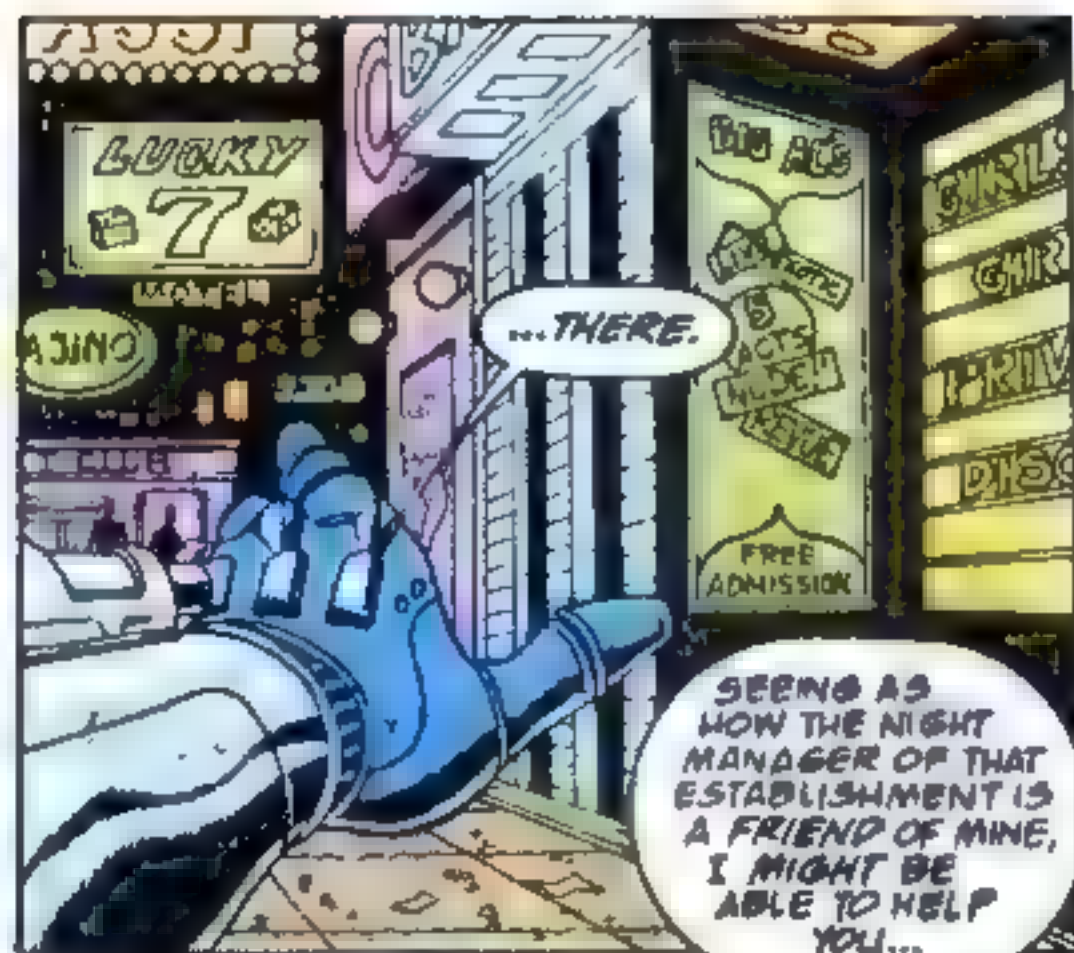
SAY GOODNIGHT, GRACIE.

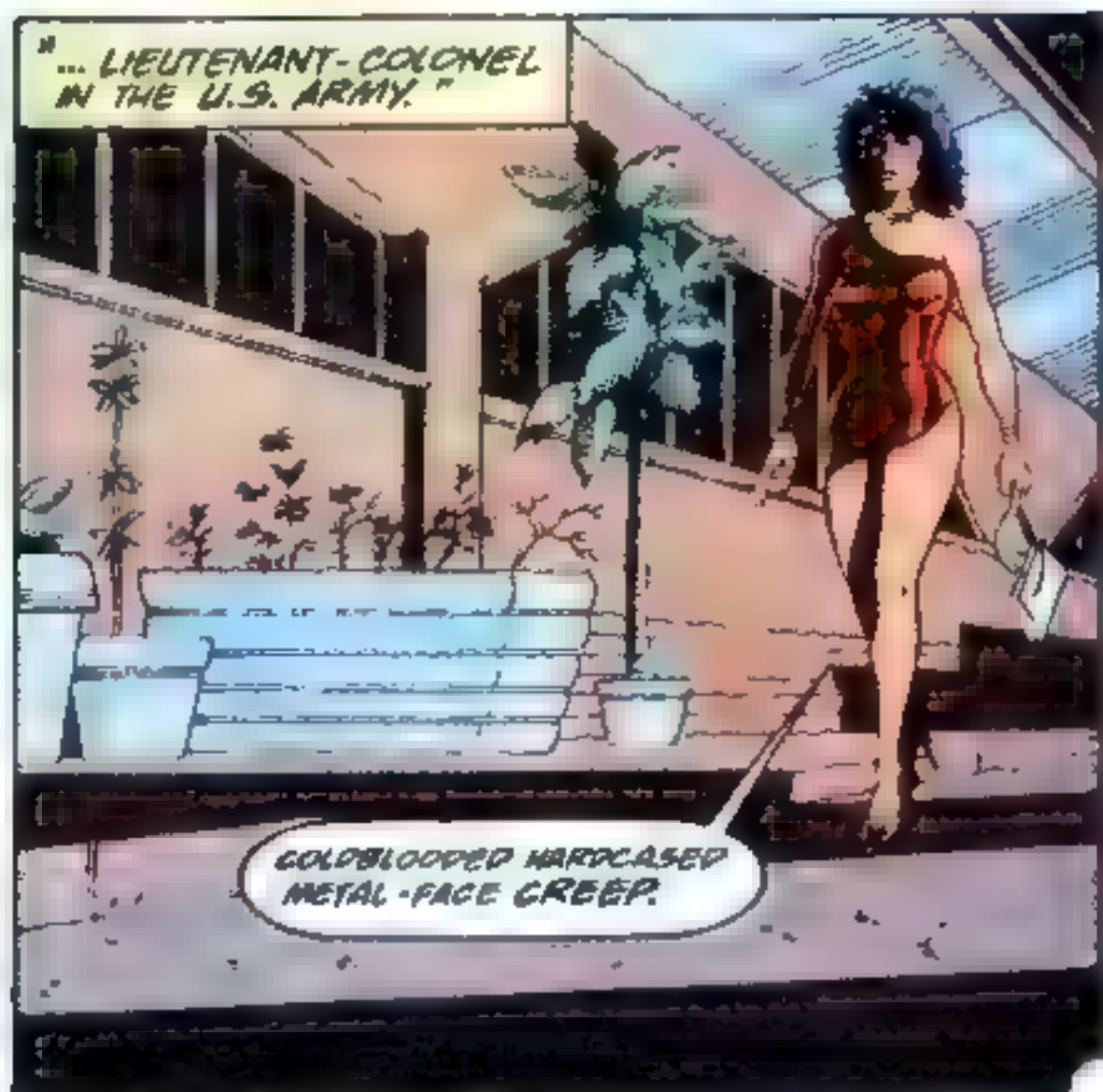
TH TH THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!



CHAPTER I ROOM SEVEN







"THREE MONTHS AGO, YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF SECURITY ON A CLASSIFIED BUT PRESUMABLY LEGITIMATE PROJECT AT CAMP KILLIAN HERE IN NEVADA..."

LIEUTENANT-COL. SAVIN? I NEED TO TALK TO YOU...

THEN SPIT IT OUT, LIEUTENANT

LT. GINA DYSON, CYBERNETICS EXPERT.

AND SHE...

HER.

MAKE NO ASSUMPTIONS BEFORE HEARING ALL DATA.

SINCE I DON'T QUITE KNOW HOW TO BEGIN, I... I'LL JUST SAY IT.

THE PROJECT WE'RE ALL WORKING ON IS ACTUALLY A FRONT FOR A MASSIVE MISAPPROPRIATION OF GOVERNMENT FUNDS.

IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO PROJECT: ULTRA-TECH, LT DYSON, PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER TAKE A SEAT AND EXPLAIN YOURSELF.

I'LL STAND-- AND YOU CAN FORGET THE SECRET PROJECT YOU THINK YOU'RE ON, BECAUSE IT'S FALSE. IT DOESN'T EXIST.

THE BUDGET IS ACTUALLY FINANCING A SUPER-SECRET PROJECT WHOSE TRUE NATURE MAY NOT EVEN BE KNOWN BY THE PENTAGON.

IN FACT, OUR PROJECT HEAD-- MAKO-- MAY NOT BE SERVING THE U.S. ARMY AT ALL, LEGITIMATELY OR OTHERWISE

UH, PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER SLOW DOWN...

MAKO IS IN LEAGUE WITH A CONSPIRACY OF FOREIGN NATIONALS ALL LINKED TO A SHADY ORGANIZATION WHICH IS ACTUALLY A FRONT FOR A MERGER-GROUP OF THREE PUBLICLY-UNAFFILIATED MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS.

COLONEL JAVIN

THEY'VE EVEN CONSTRUCTED A GIANT WALLED CITY IN RUINS! IT'S INSANE!

IT'S SUPPOSED TO REPLICATE NEW YORK AFTER SOME CATASTROPHE-- A PLAGUE OR WAR-- RIGHT OUT IN THE DESERT ONLY A HUNDRED MILES FROM HERE!

THE COVER-STORY IS THAT IT'S FOR TRAINING ANTI-TERRORIST TROOPS IN A TERRAIN SIMULATING BEIRUT FOR EXAMPLE, OR NEW YORK ITSELF AFTER A SMALL NUCLEAR BOMB OR WHATEVER...

... BUT IT'S ACTUALLY A HUGE "OBSTACLE COURSE"-- A BIZARRE "AMUSEMENT PARK" ENVIRONMENT-- A GIGANTIC MAZE FOR RUNNING RATS THROUGH THEIR FACES AND--

WHAT KIND OF "RATS"?

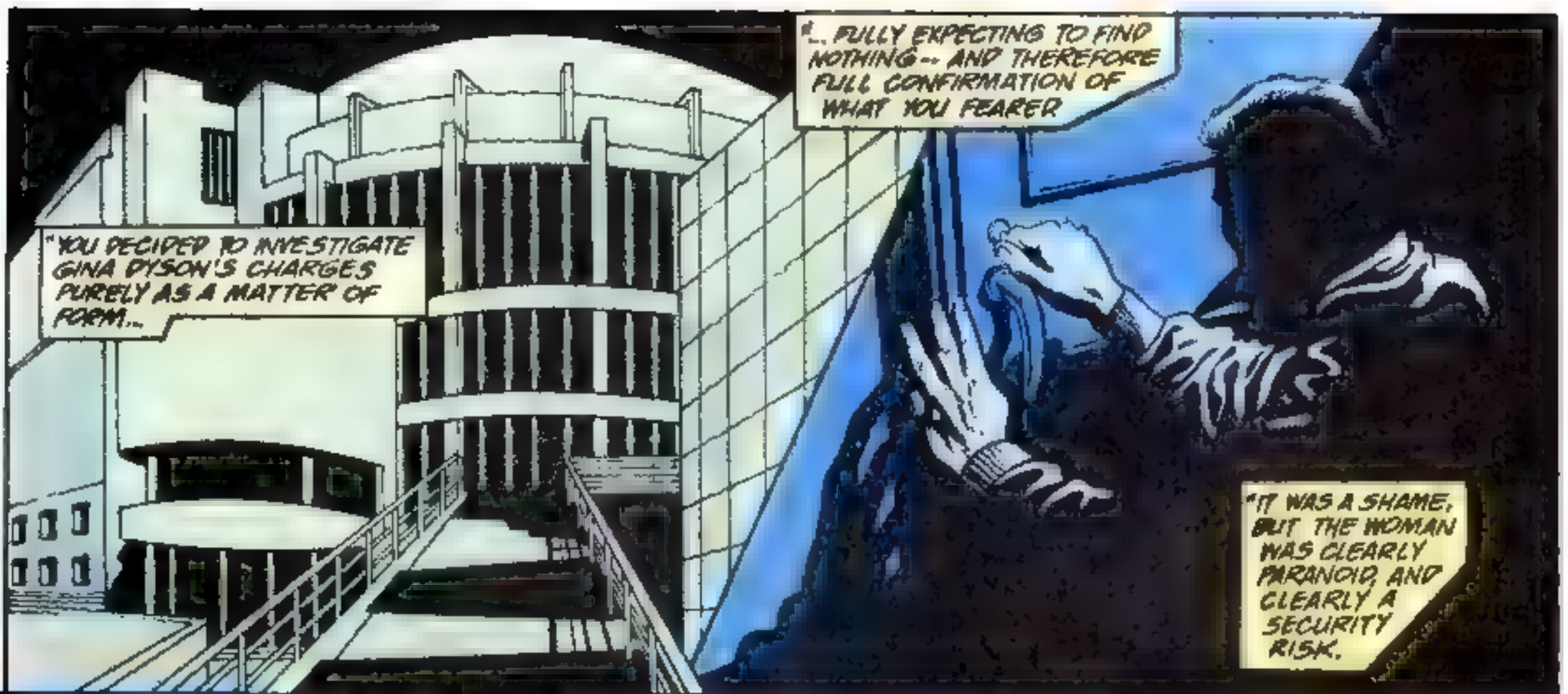
A NEW BREED OF "SUPER-SOLDIERS"-- CYBORGS, MAN-MACHINES-- SUPER STRONG DURABLE TROOPS WITH BUILT-IN COMPUTERS LINKED TO HUMAN REASONING, YET COMPLETELY OBEDIENT AND FEARLESS AND--

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

THEY'RE READY TO DO IT NOW! MAKO IS A FRANKENSTEIN! HE'S ALREADY PERFORMED PRELIMINARY EXPERIMENTS. ALL HE NEEDS FOR THE FINAL STAGE IS A SUITABLE SUBJECT!

AND YOUR ROLE IN ALL THIS?

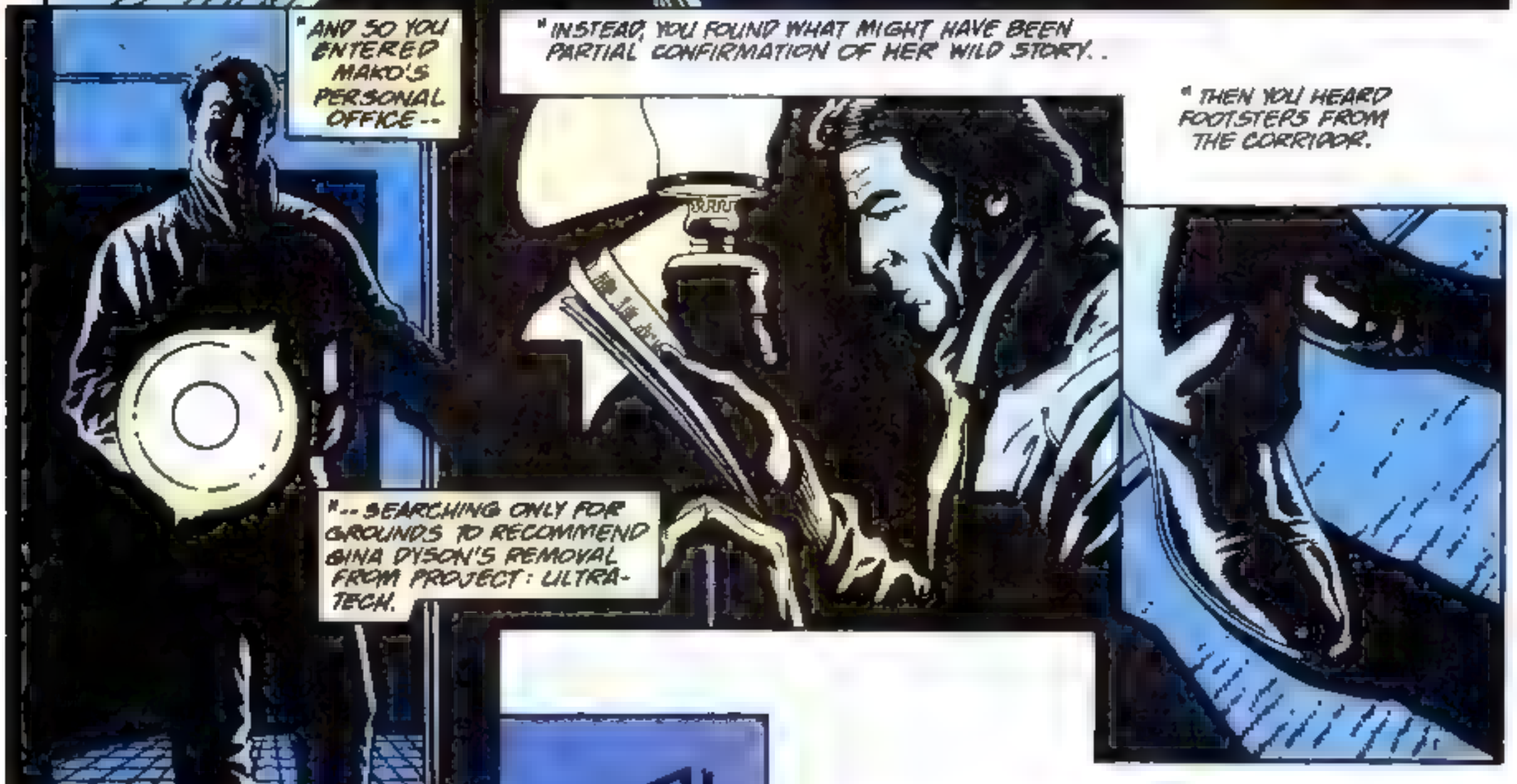
I.. GOD HELP ME.. I'M A CYBER-SURGEON-- BUT I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE! I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH IT! PLEASE-- YOU'VE GOT TO STOP IT!



"YOU DECIDED TO INVESTIGATE GINA DYSON'S CHARGES PURELY AS A MATTER OF FORM..."

"...FULLY EXPECTING TO FIND NOTHING-- AND THEREFORE FULL CONFIRMATION OF WHAT YOU FEARED

"IT WAS A SHAME, BUT THE WOMAN WAS CLEARLY PARANOID AND CLEARLY A SECURITY RISK."



"AND SO YOU ENTERED MAKO'S PERSONAL OFFICE--

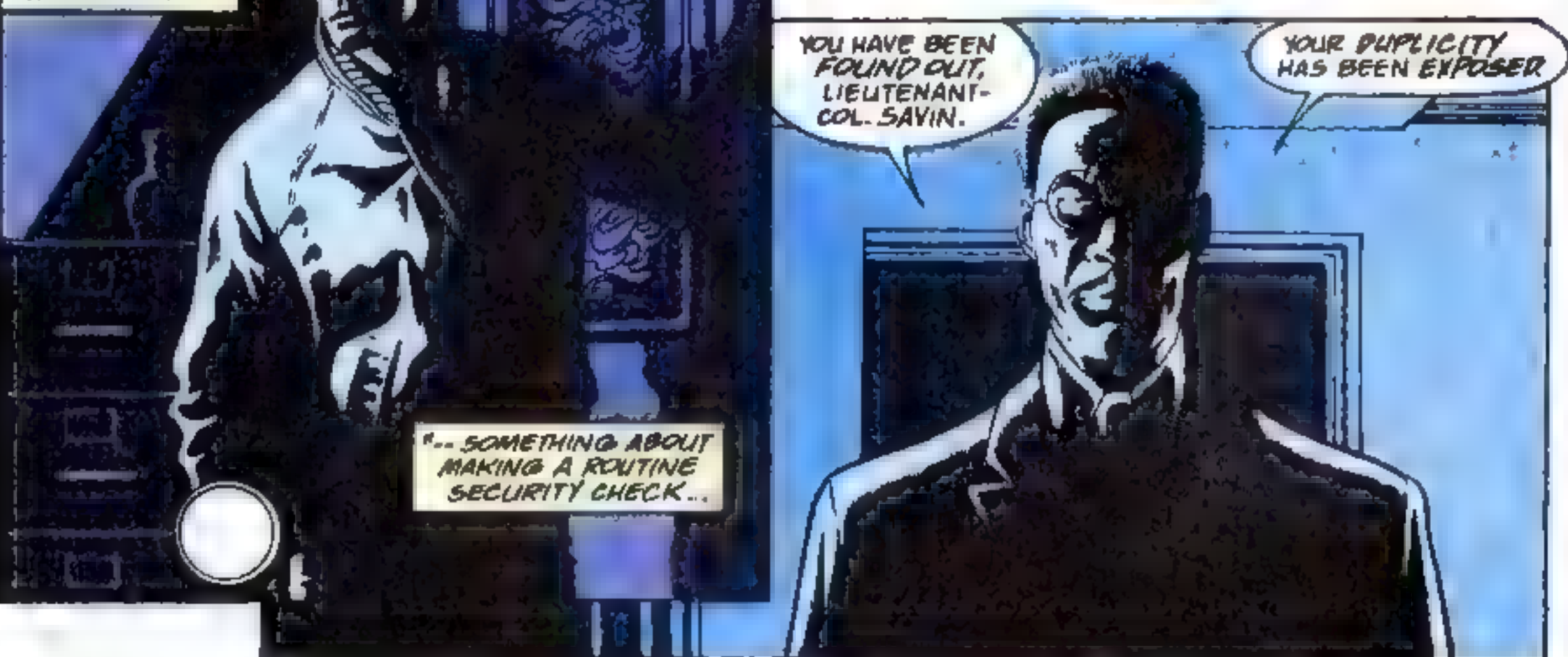
"INSTEAD, YOU FOUND WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PARTIAL CONFIRMATION OF HER WILD STORY."

"THEN YOU HEARD FOOTSTEPS FROM THE CORRIDOR."

"-- SEARCHING ONLY FOR GROUNDS TO RECOMMEND GINA DYSON'S REMOVAL FROM PROJECT: ULTRA-TECH."

"NATURALLY, YOU HAD PREPARED A COVER-STORY LONG BEFORE PENETRATING THE OFFICE--

"WHAT YOU SAW IN MAKO'S EYE, HOWEVER, IMMEDIATELY DESTROYED ITS PLAUSIBILITY."



"YOU HAVE BEEN FOUND OUT, LIEUTENANT-COL. SAYIN."

"YOUR DUPLICITY HAS BEEN EXPOSED"

"-- SOMETHING ABOUT MAKING A ROUTINE SECURITY CHECK..."

"TO YOUR SURPRISE, YOU WERE QUICKLY TRANSFERRED TO A NEARBY SECRET INSTALLATION--

"IT WAS EXACTLY AS GINA HAD DESCRIBED, AND YOU PLANNED TO CONTINUE YOUR INVESTIGATION AT THE SCENE

"BY THE TIME MAKO MADE HIS NEXT MOVE-- POSSIBLY A COURT-MARTIAL-- YOU FIGURED YOU MIGHT WELL HAVE THE GOODS ON HIM

"--OSTENSIBLY DESIGNED FOR SIMULATED WAR GAMES

"YOUR FATAL MISTAKE, HOWEVER, WAS IN UNDERESTIMATING MAKO'S SPEED AND SAVAGERY

"LESS THAN FIFTY METERS WITHIN THE WALL-GATES, YOU DROVE DIRECTLY OVER A FRESHLY PLANTED MINE.

"-- AND YOU WERE BLOWN LITERALLY TO PIECES."

BOOM

HE KNOWS NOW GINA HE'S FREE, AND HE KNOWS WHO HE IS.

HE KNOWS HE'S DEAD.

JUST LIKE YOU.

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE...

THE TEMPER OF A GOD

A PEACEFUL
AUTUMN
MORNING ON
AVALON, HOME
OF THE CELTIC
GODS AND THEIR
PEOPLE.

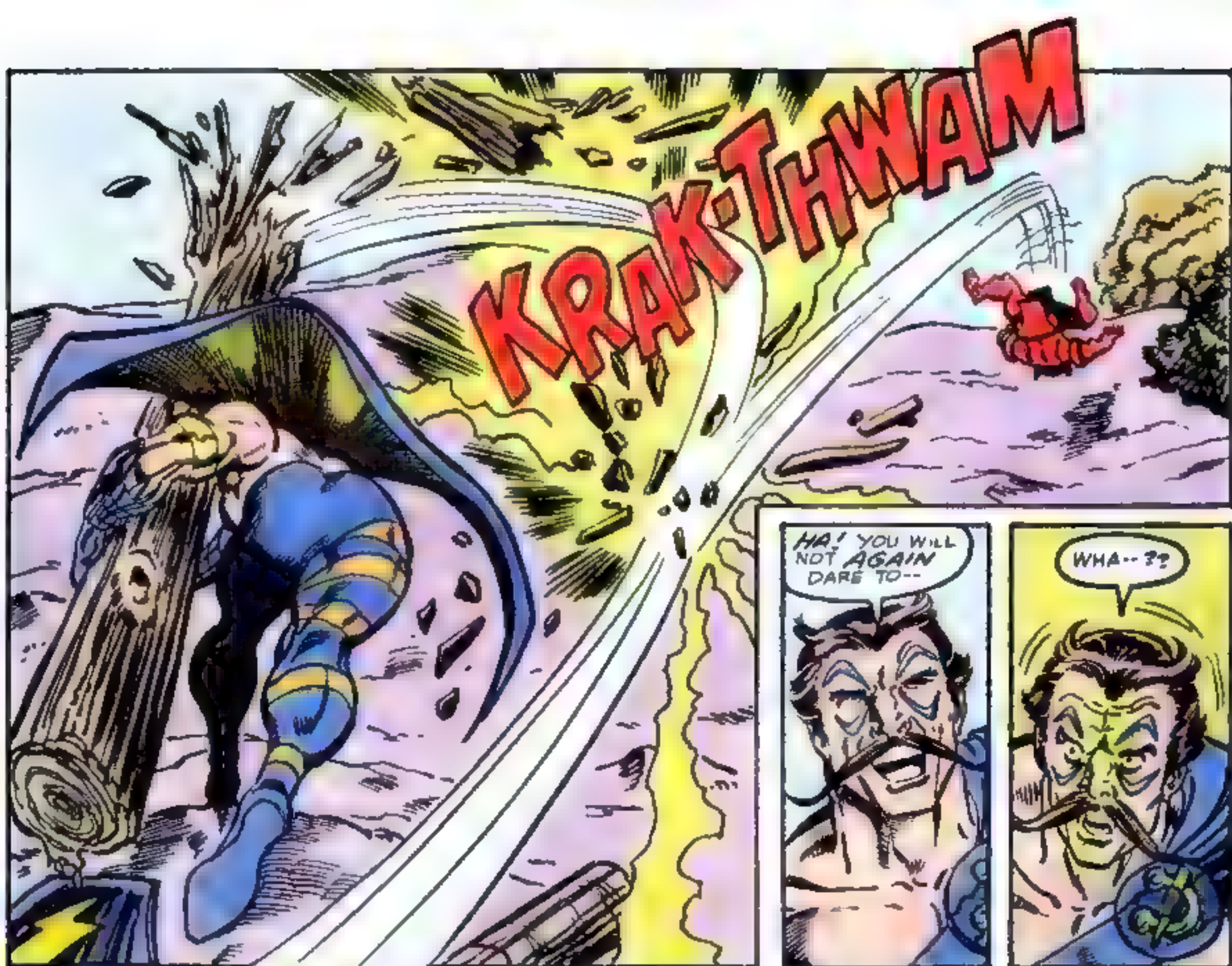
PEACEFUL, THAT
IS UNTIL THE
COOL QUIET
DAWN IS
SHATTERED BY
VIOLENCE!

HIS VILLAGE
DAMAGED,
HIS PEOPLE
FLEEING,
LEIR, LORD
OF LIGHTNING
AND GOD
OF THE
SPEAR, HAS
NO CHOICE
BUT TO STAND
AND FIGHT THE
INTRUDER!



FOUL SPAWN
OF EVIL! YOU DARE TO
CHALLENGE ME? YOU KNOW
NOT WHAT YOU FACE

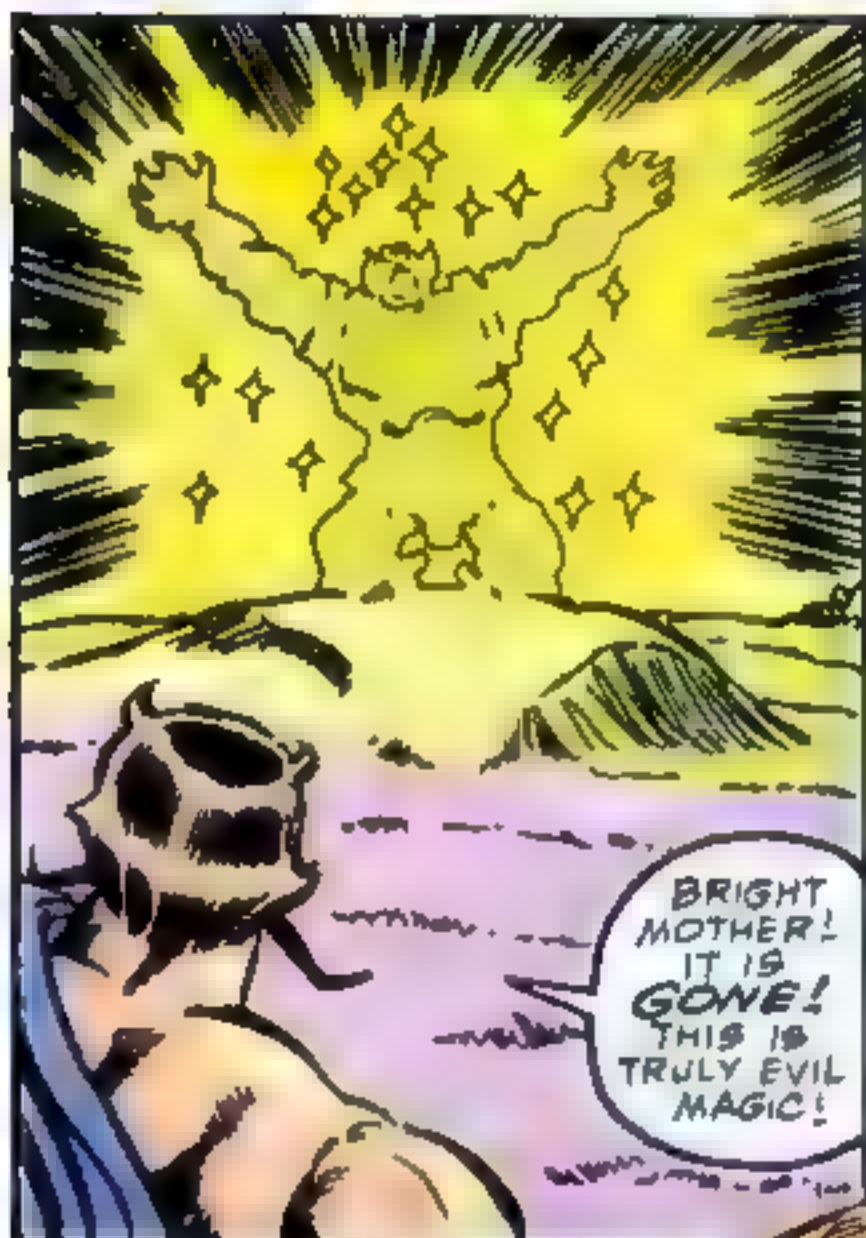
STARRING:
LEIR
LORD OF
LIGHTNING



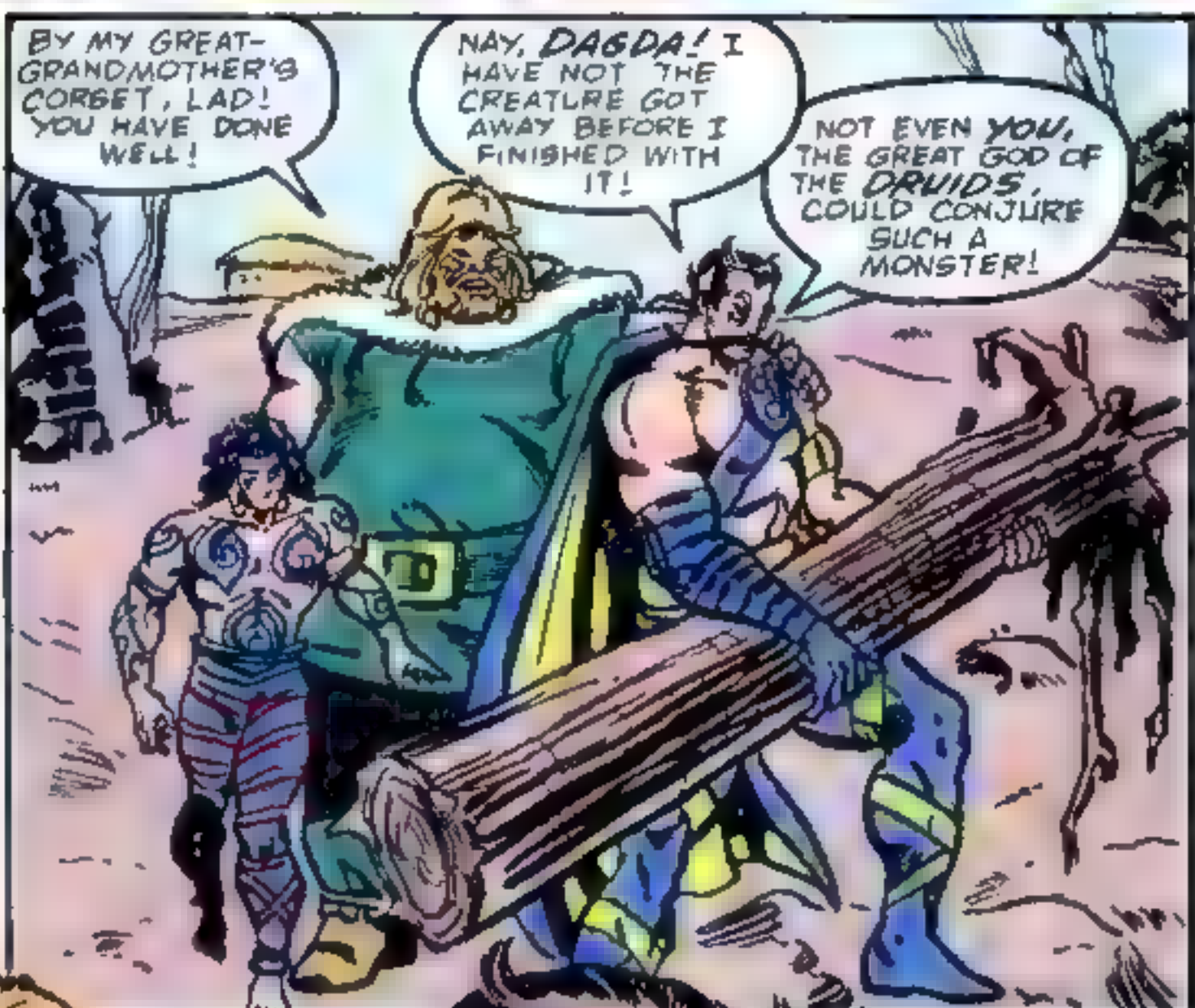
HA! YOU WILL NOT AGAIN DARE TO--



WHA--??



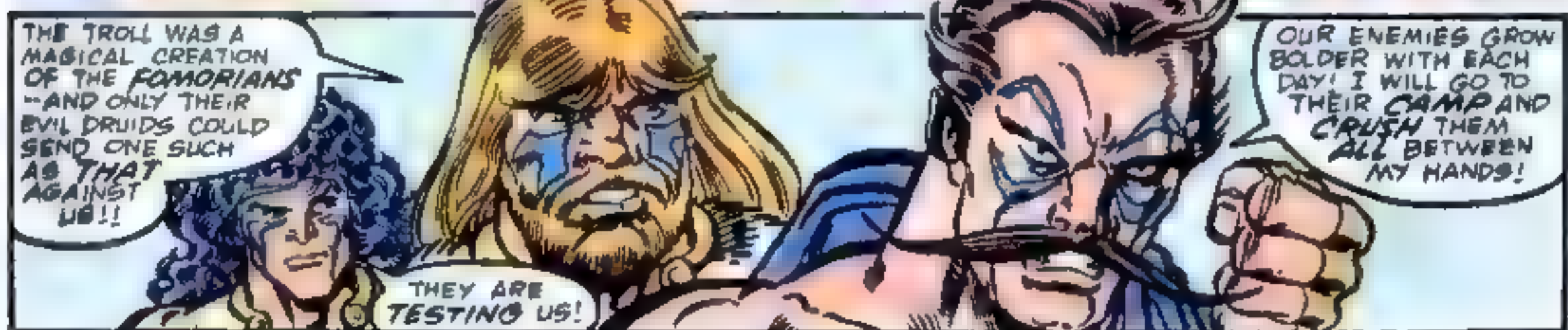
BRIGHT MOTHER! IT IS GONE! THIS IS TRULY EVIL MAGIC!



BY MY GREAT-GRANDMOTHER'S CORSET, LAD! YOU HAVE DONE WELL!

NAY, DAGDA! I HAVE NOT THE CREATURE GOT AWAY BEFORE I FINISHED WITH IT!

NOT EVEN YOU, THE GREAT GOD OF THE DRUIDS, COULD CONJURE SUCH A MONSTER!

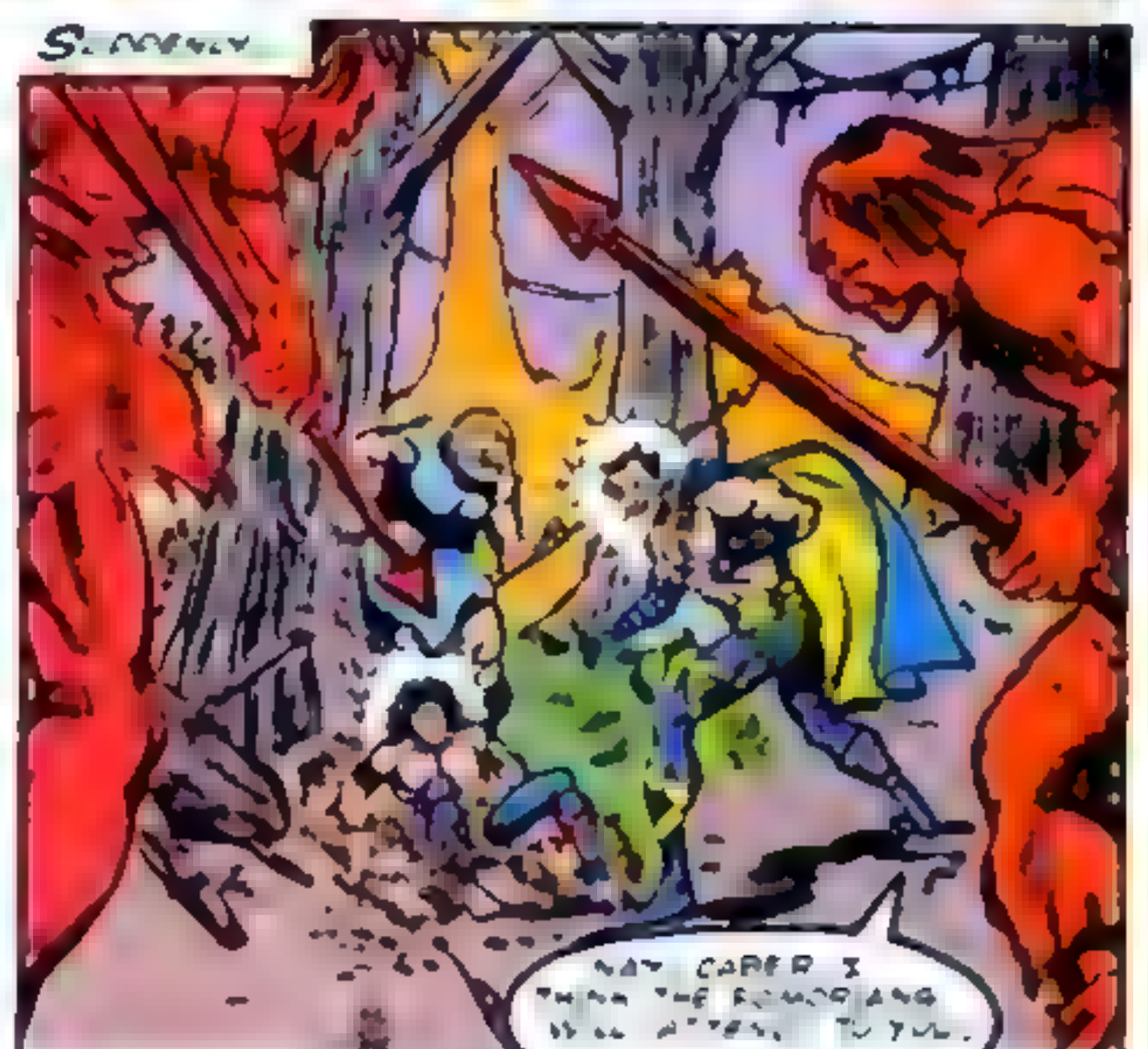
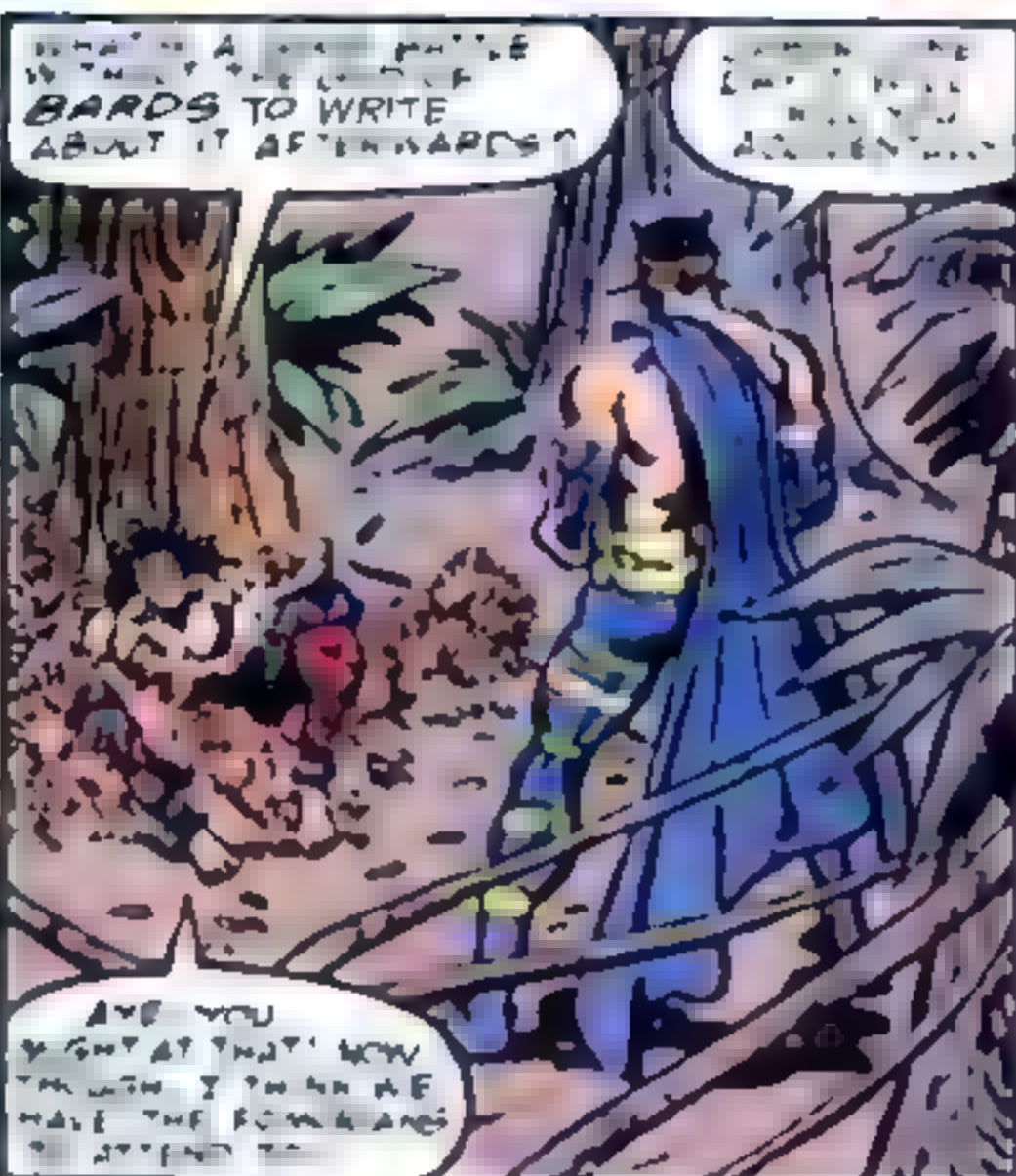


THE TROLL WAS A MAGICAL CREATION OF THE FOMORIANS --AND ONLY THEIR EVIL DRUIDS COULD SEND ONE SUCH AS THAT AGAINST US!!

THEY ARE TESTING US!

OUR ENEMIES GROW BOLDER WITH EACH DAY! I WILL GO TO THEIR CAMP AND CRUSH THEM ALL BETWEEN MY HANDS!





MENTIONED CAN BE OVER
LOOKING THE FOMORIAN EN-
CAMPMENT. DAGDA HAS
ARRIVED WITH REINFORCEMENTS

CONOR YOUR
EYES ARE SHARP-
EST WHAT DO
THEY TELL YOU?

THE SAME
AS YOURS TELL
YOU, DAGDA. ALL
IS QUIET, EXCEPT
FOR

LOOK - BEYOND THE
VILLAGE! I KNOW OF
ONLY ONE MAN WHO
COULD RAISE SUCH
A CLOUD OF DUST
IN A FIGHT!

"LEIR!"

HA!
FOMORIAN
DOGS, YOU
CANNOT HOLD
ME!

IS THAT
YOUR BEST
INSULT,
LEIR?
I AM
ASHAMED!

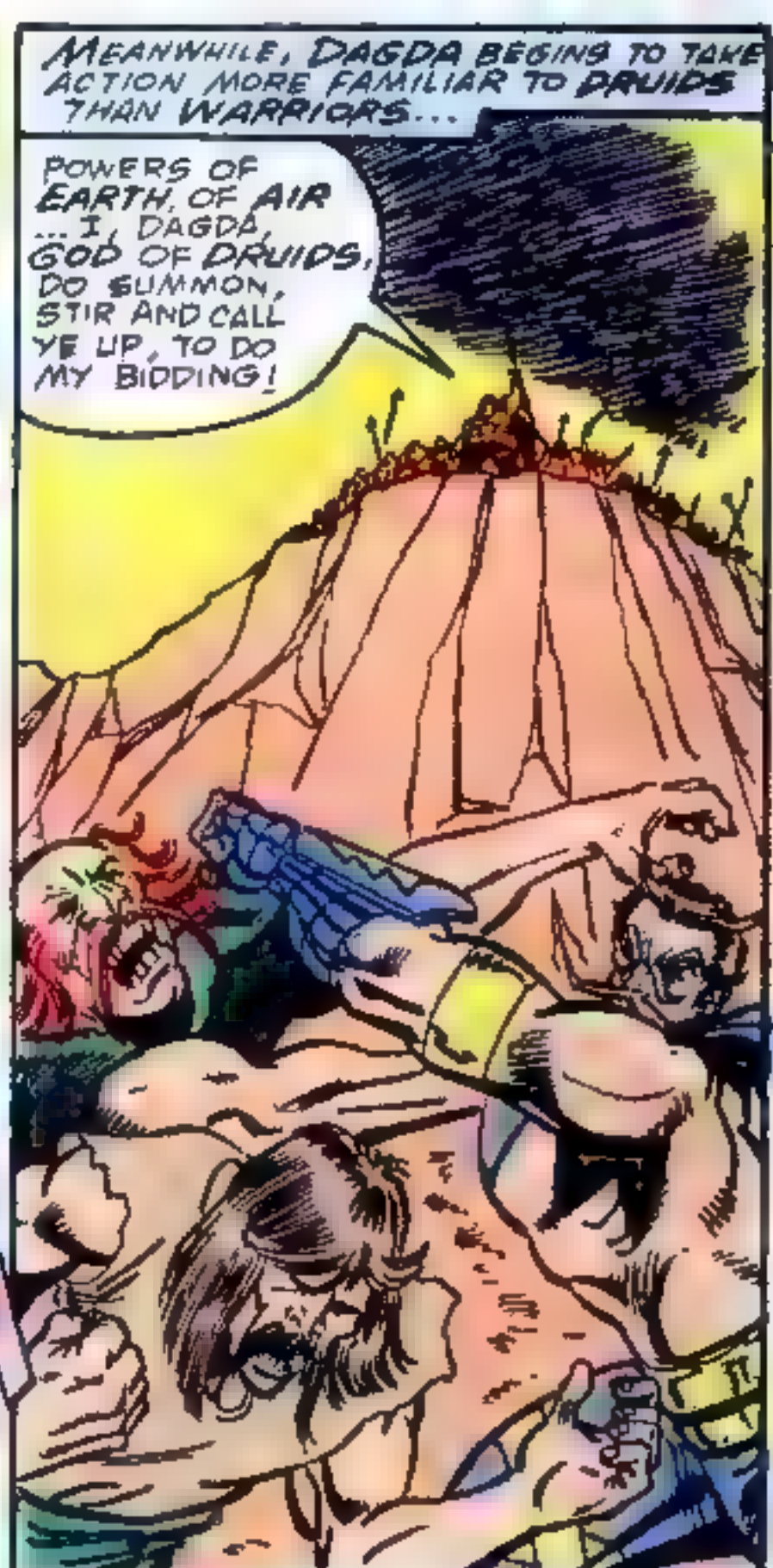
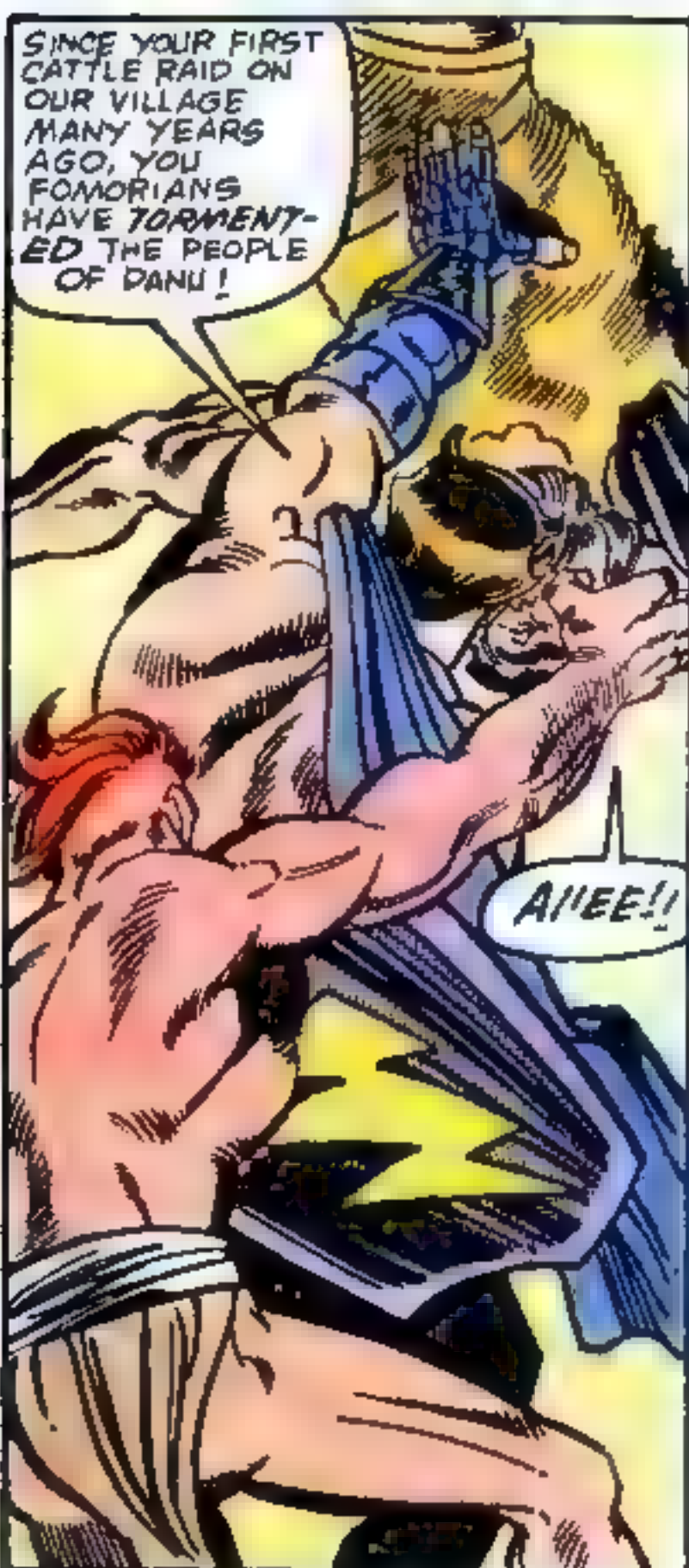
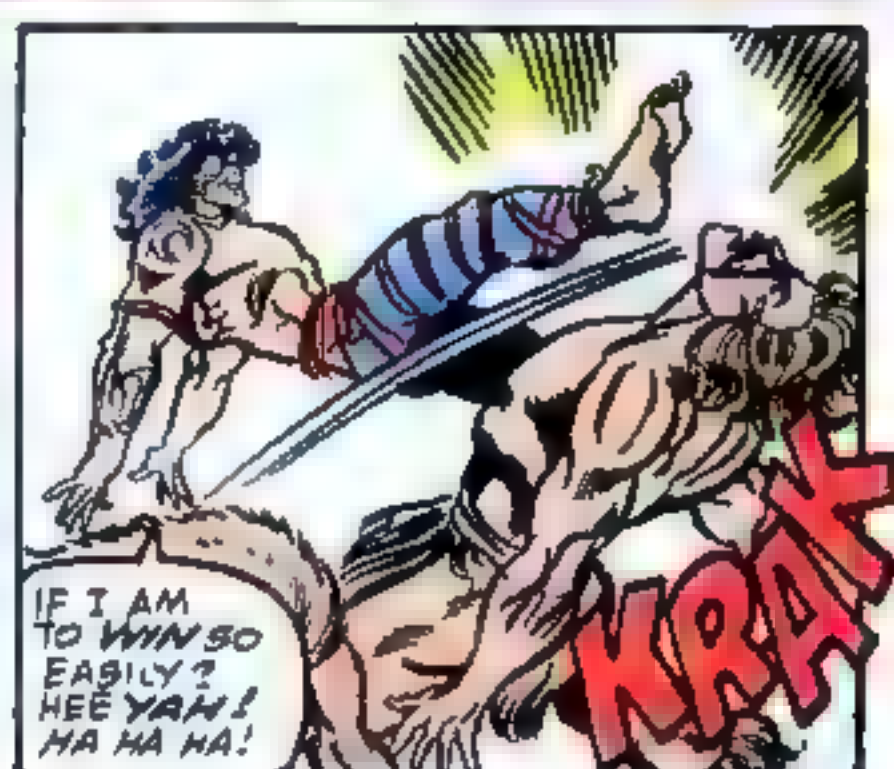
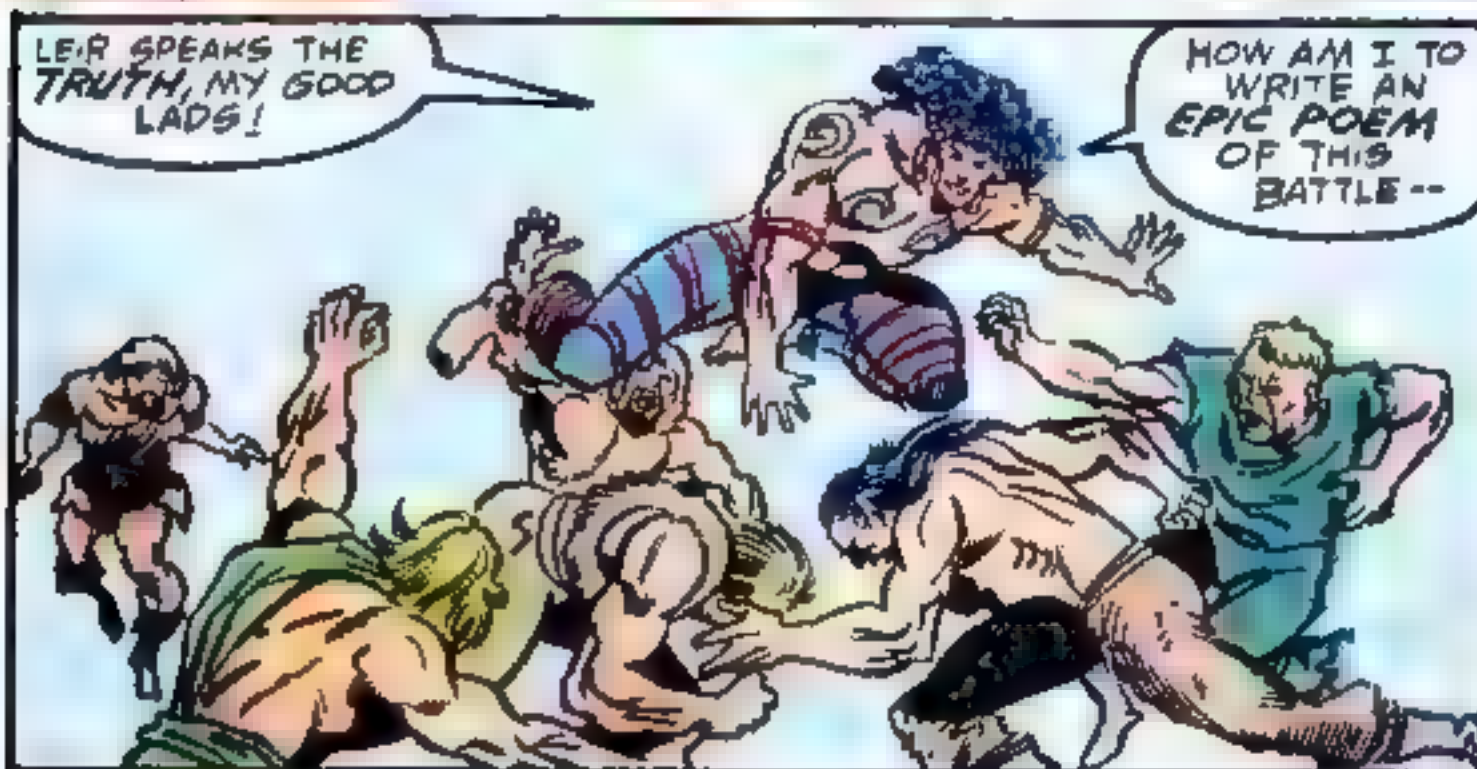
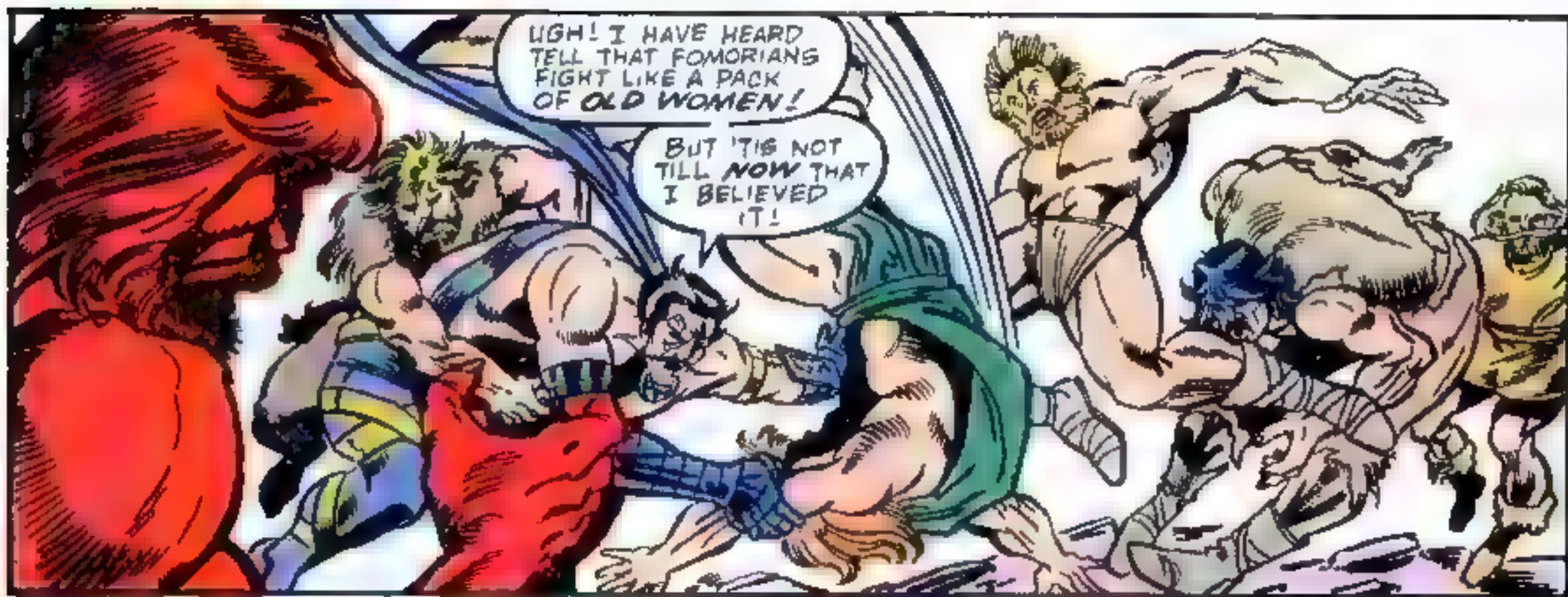
THA-KOO

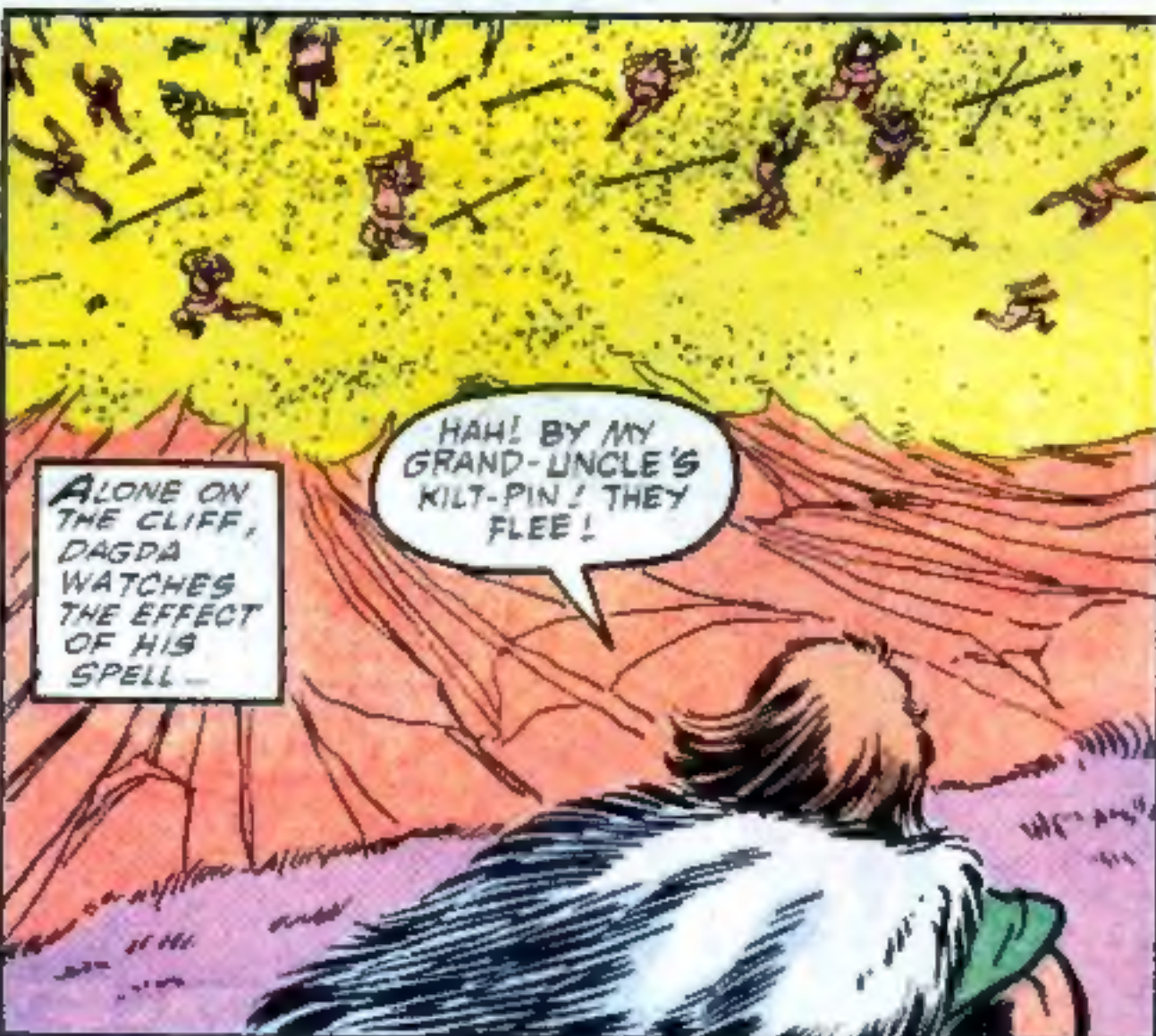
DO WE
JOIN THE
FIGHT
DAGDA?

BUT -

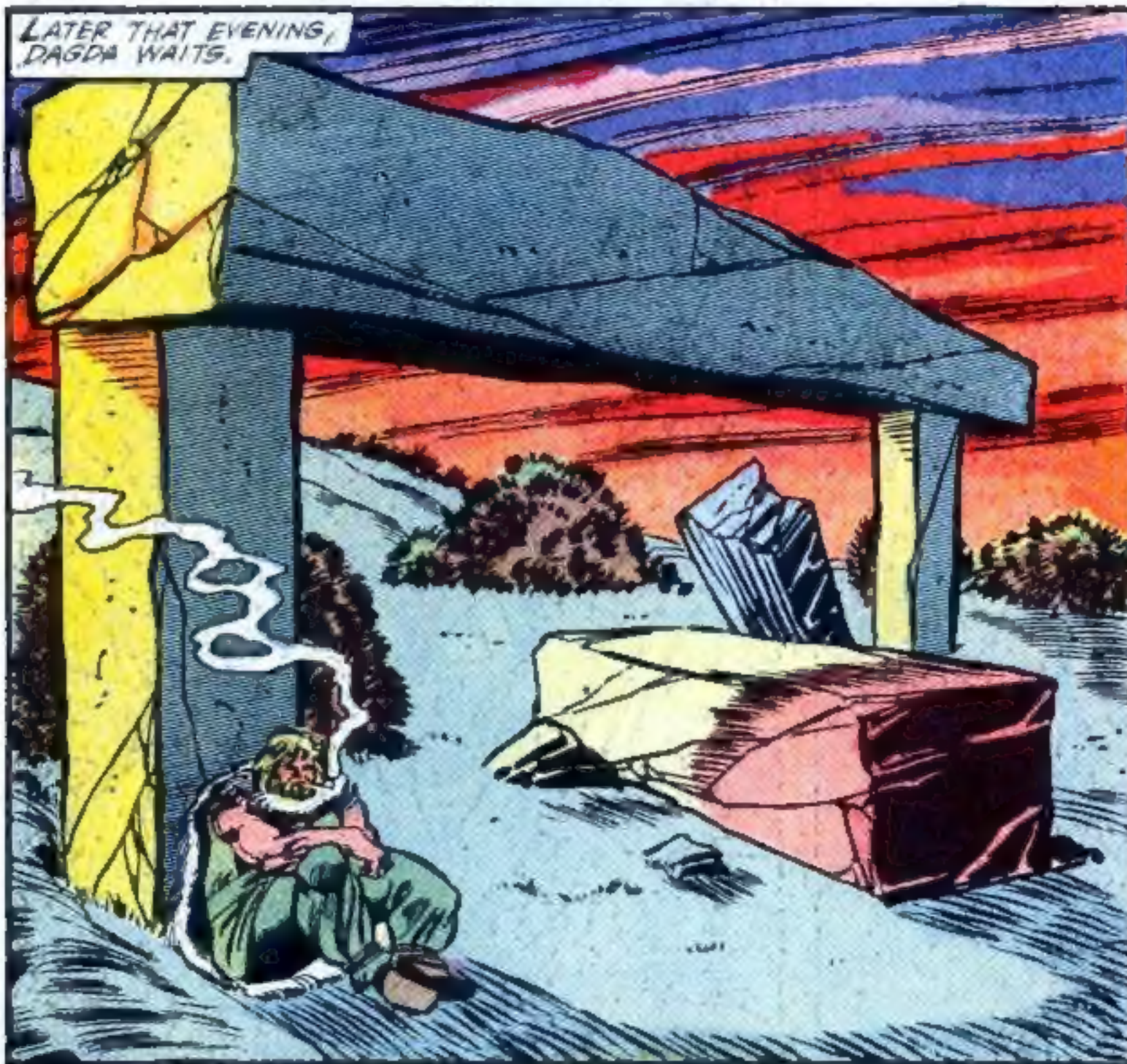
NO! THERE
WILL BE NO
BLOOD
SPILLED
TODAY!

PAT ENCE,
ANGUS!
WAIT AND
WATCH!





LATER THAT EVENING,
DAGDA WAITS.



EVENING,
LAD.

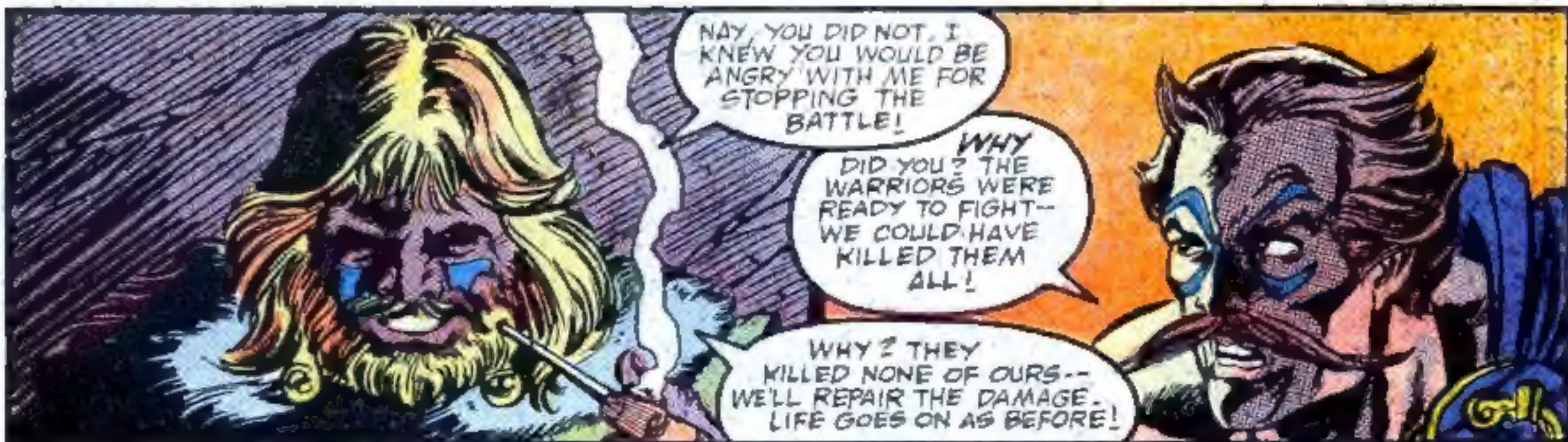
I CAME
HERE TO BE
ALONE,
DAGDA.



NAY, YOU DID NOT. I
KNEW YOU WOULD BE
ANGRY WITH ME FOR
STOPPING THE
BATTLE!

WHY
DID YOU? THE
WARRIORS WERE
READY TO FIGHT--
WE COULD HAVE
KILLED THEM
ALL!

WHY? THEY
KILLED NONE OF OURS--
WE'LL REPAIR THE DAMAGE.
LIFE GOES ON AS BEFORE!



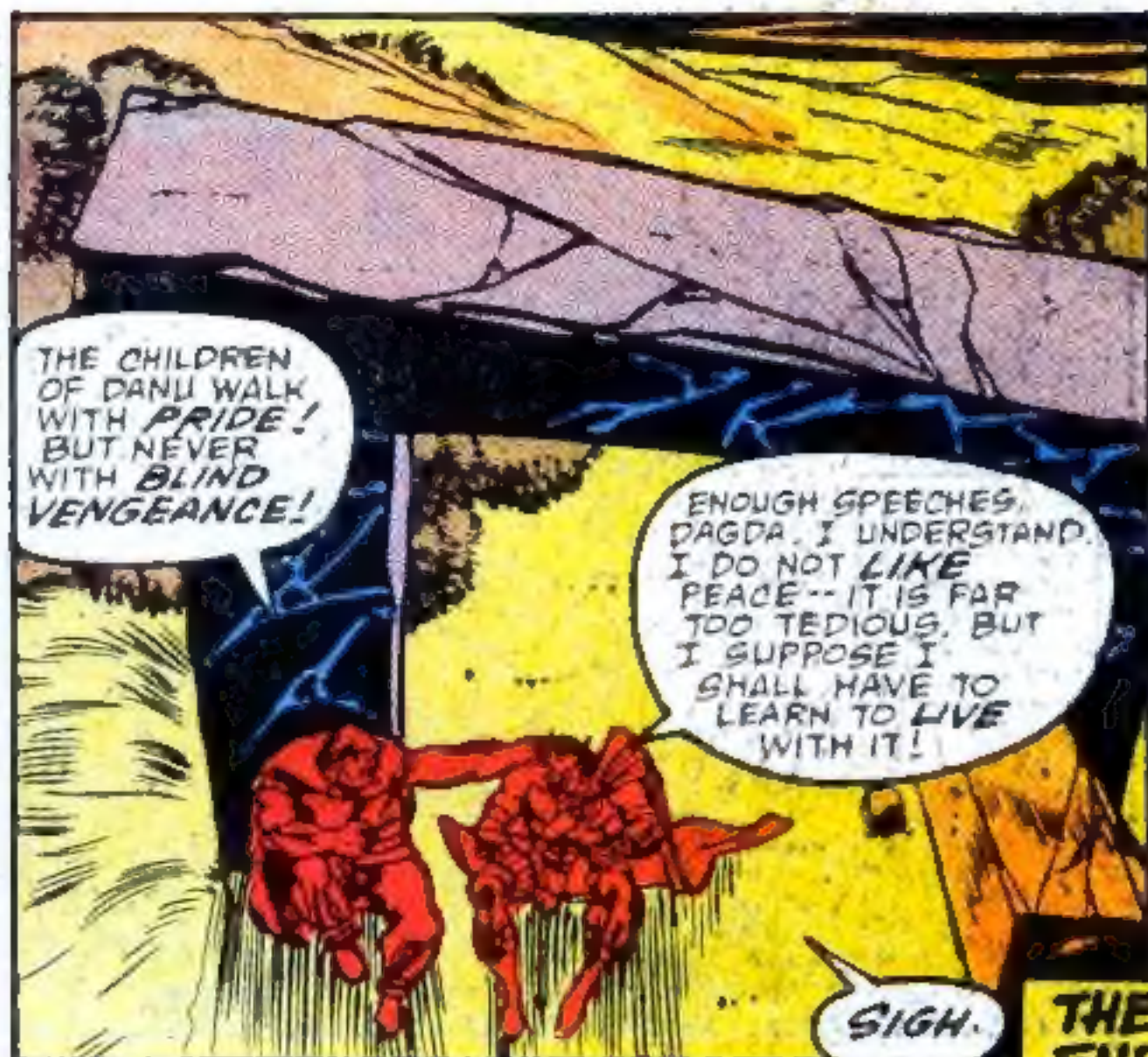
YOUR WARRIOR'S
HEART IS HOT WITH
RAGE, BUT YOU DO
NOT UNDERSTAND
THE MEANING OF
WAR!

IT IS
ALWAYS
BETTER
TO AVOID
KILLING,
WHEN THE
LEARNING
OF A
LESSON
WILL
SUFFICE!



THE CHILDREN
OF DANU WALK
WITH **PRIDE!**
BUT NEVER
WITH **BLIND
VENGEANCE!**

ENOUGH SPEECHES,
DAGDA. I UNDERSTAND.
I DO NOT **LIKE**
PEACE-- IT IS FAR
TOO TEDIOUS. BUT
I SUPPOSE I
SHALL HAVE TO
LEARN TO LIVE
WITH IT!



SIGH.

**THE
END.**

MARVEL[®] READERS

PRESENT

Dear Marvel,

Here's a few comments on MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS Cyclops of X-Factor #22. (1) Is MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS Havok of the X-Men going to be the next title that's going to appear on the cover? Seriously now, this title takes up over 1/3 of the space on the cover. It seems to me anybody who likes X-Factor already knows who Cyclops is anyway so I really don't see any reason for this sort of thing. Personally I would prefer just seeing the words MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. So let's have more art and less words on the covers. (2) Just when I'm thinking what a fun villain Conscience is turning out to be he gets zapped but good by Master Mold. Well, here's hoping he'll pull through so we can see more of him. (3) The Black Panther strip was once again excellent. (4) I didn't care for the Wolfsbane and Mirage tale at all (5) I know from reading the AVENGERS letters page that quite a few fans would like to see Starfox back there. But I would rather see him in solo stories like this set out in space. Like the Silver Surfer I think he belongs there.

William Blevins
135 Spencer
Farmdale, MI 48220

Sorry you don't like our logos, William, but we're just trying to insure that all these high-quality stories are seen by as many Marvel fans as possible. Maybe it doesn't quite work for everyone -- let us know what the rest of you think...

Dear Terry and Michael,

You should be complimented on the excellent job that is being done with MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. I love the fact that this book can showcase other Marvel characters without the need for a limited series. My main concern is that you do not use characters who regularly appear in their own title (example: the Thing, Marvel Girl). The appearance by Ant-Man was welcome, primarily because he isn't spotlighted in IRON MAN. A title like MARVEL FANFARE seems to be there for characters that have their own book. There are a number of untapped characters in the Marvel Universe that not only need to be shown, but developed. Thanks to MCP, some of those new superheroes introduced in CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS are finally being used. I'm looking forward with anticipation to the upcoming Shamrock story. The recommendation mentioned by James M. Joyce in #22 to bring the Collective Man into the AVENGERS sounds great!

Diversity in writing and art styles is essential to a publication like this and everyone involved is doing an outstanding job. The Falcon, Red Wolf, Shanna the She-Devil, and Starfox stories stand out as recent favorites; the occasional Wolfpack stories are enjoyable too (but I'd rather see other heroes shown since they have their own book and it's obvious that appearances here are made to promote their sales). The Black Panther storyline by McGregor and Colan is another classic. I hope that Shang-Chi can make an appearance here or elsewhere in the foreseeable future. My sincere wish is that we will eventually see Barry Windsor-Smith's reported "Weapon X" series. Have you considered sitting down with Don McGregor and P. Craig Russell to plan out the concluding chapter in the Killraven saga? What has Beta Ray Bill been up to? Galactus? Comet Man? Deathlok? Eternals on Titan? The Soviet Super-Soldiers? Sunfire? The Guardians of the Galaxy have not been utilized in years. Power Man is still in comic book limbo since the death of Iron Fist (use him in IRON MAN as a supporting character and work him into the AVENGERS!). Ever thought about doing an all-villain issue?

Continue the good work; I'm looking forward to NTH MAN!

Michael A. Faries
California State Univ. Northridge
9925 Zelzah #613
Northridge, CA 91325

A great many of your requests will be seen in these pages during upcoming issues, Michael. In the immediate future, you can look forward to seeing the "Weapon X" series by Mr. Smith, a Marc McLaurin Power Man story, a Scott Lobell Sunfire story, and even an all-villain issue! So who says we don't please everybody!?

Messieurs,

In notre qualite de residents de la Maison francaise d'Indiana University, nous soussignes vous prions de publier au moins une aventure du les premier super heros de la France, le Peregrine.

Erik C. Miller
Jennifer Jankowiak
Lisa Ann Fanning
Heather M. Brown
Darren E. Burroughs
Carrie A. Wilson
Laura Donley
Jennie Hawfield
Tipton J. Hartman
c/o La Maison Francaise
Ashton Center
Bloomington, IN 47406

Ici, nous pensons Le Peregrine est le meilleur super-hero en Europe. Si vous voulez une aventure avec lui, nous vous donnerons une.

Dear People,

You have really hit a healthy stride with PRESENTS, consistently creating a book of diverse character and taste. To date, the Black Panther series has been my favorite, but that's to be expected from the dynamite team of McGregor and Colan.

You are openly addressing some very strong issues here in an impressively realistic manner. I think shifting from one person's thought perspective to another has torn down those comfortable boundaries to the definitions of good and evil. Particularly evil. Initially I merely despised the soldiers, now I can despise them with understanding. Their social system of Apartheid breeds monsters, it doesn't excuse them. This story has brought me closer to the inner mind and soul of the Afrikaner, than I'd previously been. It wasn't a pleasant trip, especially the return back through my own experiences and dark potential. But I think I ought to thank you for taking me through it. Prejudice isn't always a white hot passionate fear, sometimes it's almost casual in its seizing of our minds. Usually it surprises us when we first discover it's there. Too often we accept it and dismiss it as harmless. As seen here, it may never be called harmless. Many things, but not harmless.

As tricky as it was to take us into the hearts and thoughts of the white minority, perhaps twice as courageous was your willingness to explore the violent hate and anger of the black South African. Apartheid breeds many beasts, not all of them look the same in their ugliness. When I see the suffering of the black majority in South Africa, I want very much to make heroes of them in my mind. Then I can put my emotions in a safer place, having placed them up on a pedestal and transcended their humanity. But I mustn't be allowed to do that. People suffer horribly where martyrs can be dismissed as fulfilling some "noble destiny". The victims of Apartheid are people. They suffer as people, die as people, grieve as people and live as . . . less than people. Thank you for this series.

The inside reference to Coal Tiger wasn't lost on me. I remember JUNGLE ACTION, and thought the reference was cute.

Michael Preolo
Westwood, NJ

You're welcome, Michael.



**BLACK
PANTHER**

COLDBLOOD

THE ORIGIN BEGINS . . .

THE TRAIL FADES . . .

LEIR

**LORD OF LIGHTNING & THE CELTIC GODS
IN
"THE TEMPER OF A GOD"**